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JUN.  
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WHL, the Nashville Predators move up north, and ex-Canadiana Hockey?

## The next Stanley Cup winner—in Waterloo?

With the Canadian spring in full bloom, a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of hockey. The same goes for young women. And old women. As well as old men, children and family pets too. Instantly in our national psyche, traditionality reaches its fever pitch as the days grow longer and warmer and the NHL playoffs enter their final round.

Just as Calgary and Edmonton did in the previous two seasons, this year the Ottawa Senators will carry out goals, against the Anaheim Ducks. The first conviction (that the Stanley Cup belongs in the country) is as hard as hockey (from across Canada to put aside their regional differences and cheer for a common team. Consider how much more exciting it would be if Anaheim represented a similar spirit among Americans: let's say Los Angeles or California are even more "ice" hockey in any other play.

The NHL's efforts to gain South American fans have run faster than ice in the largely team's dinner. Two months ago we completed in this space the discussion of the NHL's decision to play off-schedule in the U.S. moving season. We saw the fruits of this move as (a) an attempt to win from the NHL and (b) a decision to move between Ottawa and Buffalo that is over the ice about to begin—to show the new season for the Predators' future.

If the goal is to make hockey more popular, the NHL should concentrate on making it more Canadian. Outside of the Senators' efforts this year, Blackhawks' Roberto Gomez might be our next best hope. After his attempt to buy and move the Pittsburgh

Program was stopped a few months ago, Roberto, the ex-GM of RMI, has agreed to buy the Nashville Predators. There appear to be no major barriers to moving the Predators out of Music City U.S.A. and into Hockey City Canada. And Roberto doesn't lack for choices: Winnipeg, Hamilton, Quebec City or Toronto could all use a hockey team.

Joking aside, Toronto could easily support two teams, and a second team may be the only way Toronto will get to see a Stanley Cup. The New York area has three teams. Another possibility could see the Predators moving to Buffalo in the shadow of Rochester-Waterloo, say beyond the Leafs' 80 km home territory zone. Interestingly, the local paper reports RMI already bought 25 acres of prime real estate in nearby Cambridge, Ont., just off Highway 401. For all the complaining about the hollowing out of Canadian industry at the hands of U.S. businesses, perhaps it's time for Canadians to begin looking out the American hockey business.

Our cover story on the shocking social, economic and racial collapse of England comes to us from Martin Newman. The former editor of London's Daily Telegraph, Martin was also the founding deputy editor of the National Post and has contributed to the Guardian, the Daily Mail and Murdoch's.

Last week, Murdoch's editor-in-chief and publisher Kenneth Whyte was issued a subpoena to appear as a witness in the fraud trial of Conrad Black in Chicago. Whyte is expected to testify on his experiences as an employee at the Black empire. His appearance will have no bearing on the magazine's coverage of the case. ■

## MACLEAN'S

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# MACLEAN'S

ROGERS

MAKING



## 'The low birth rate is not a bad-news story. It's a solution to environmental destruction.'

### BABY TALK

BRANDY MACLEAN'S, for your latest story on the impending baby shortage in Canada ("Can we find the need to breed?" May 18) Where Lance Gougeon touched on several issues, economic and social, which need to be addressed to ensure the nation will prosper. One area that was overlooked is the status of food itself—employed women and female business owners who have no access to employment insurance (maternity benefits) because they have no separate pay into the program (different rules apply in Quebec). These women are regularly faced with the unfair decision to either have a child, close shop, have no source of income and hope that their clients will still be there when they reopen their doors, or remain childless and continue to focus all of their energies on their businesses. It is essential that governments take action to address this situation. Otherwise, Canada's frightening baby bust will not be reversed. Julie McGivley, Montreal, N.B.

YOUR HAND WHEELING exposé raises the issue: it's not a bad-news story. The low birth rate is actually a solution to the much larger issues of overpopulation, continuing real destruction and failed immigrant assimilation. The need for all those extra workers you talk about only occurs if we have all those extra babies. With no new family formations, that certainly won't be any need for those extra teachers, plumbers, house painters and concrete layers, so just calm down. Not having babies is a good thing. Frank Albright, Grand Forks, B.C.

MY WIFE AND I tried to conceive a child for almost two years, and were ultimately led to fertility doctors resulting in four failed transference attempts. Each cost \$100, plus \$100 to move from 10,000 for fertility drugs. None of it was covered by OHIP. After I had surgery to boost my sperm count, the doctor was not even allowed to try a 100 procedure, but on again we went successfully. Now the only viable option for my wife and me is in vitro fertilization, which costs \$7000 and another five thousand dollars for drugs. When it comes to Canada's declining fertility

rate, you could have discussed the government's failure to provide funding for childless and supporting Canadians like us. Glen Seelings, Toronto

YOU ASK WHAT it will take to convince Canadians to have more children? You say that only 40 per cent of women who leave the workforce return to full time, professional jobs, so if that worryingly. As long as people consider having a child less than a full time,



professional career as a caregiver, Canadians will not be encouraging single family life ahead of their jobs. Josh Moore (Staff), Woodstock, N.H.

IF I HAD TO CHOOSE my app, I would not have children, even though I love my children dearly. On top of the financial and career disadvantages you discussed, you could have added the extra stress children place on a marriage and the fact that women with children have a truly terrible time leaving bad marriages. Linda Kewenow, Woodbridge, Ont.

AS A MOTHER of two teenage sons who are building their careers and not wanting to think about babies (ugh), for me there are two reasons that may affect their decisions. High real estate prices are daunting for those wanting a family and who do not want to enter

the idea of raising a child in a one-bedroom condo. Further, after much blather and no action, we really need the political will to put together a national daycare program with educated caregivers. This would be accessible to all, it would probably have to be subsidized. This is not viable. We just need to make Canada a child-friendly country. Anna Starnack, North Vancouver

GENETIC HUMAN reproduction deserves more dignity than is afforded by your cover story. It may be genetically correct to use the word "breed" in reference to humans, but in everyday usage we tend to use that word for animals. Your crude and impertinent tone demeans humanity. Sally Cowell, Niagara, Ont.

### WEDDING BELL BLUES

THE SUE OF wedding has nothing to do with the enjoyment of a marriage (Interview, May 18). Marriage takes work. It is a daily process led by both partners. My husband and I have had 25 years ago after about one month of planning. His mother was a big help. There have been many bumps along the way, but we are closer now than we ever were. The marriage industry should include some information on how to do this. The ceremony. Maybe people would get to be so disillusioned by their first fight that they go screaming for the doc. Rosemary Schiller, Fairview, N.S.

### A DRINK AND A SHOKE

I ALWAYS READ your back page first when I get my issue, but I couldn't understand why it is so thorough. One school board representative in the Ontario school board included (The first, May 14). Plus sudden death coverage to shouldn't have been a surprise, no discussion to the family. This man has both his father and his sister to heart attack, yet the article before he died, your writer Cathy Gault says he enjoyed work and sports, which were part of his "relaxation regime." Hello? Jesse Gage, Brantford, Ont.

### LEAFY WEIGHT LOSS

AS A NEWBORN CHILDREN author, I see both in human nature and human kinetics, I had to shake my head at the article about 50th birthday and her plans on eating her salad for a month (1). Lettuce, mirroring, meat and night (1). Hello, May 18). There are many things wrong with the way she has chosen to fight her weight loss battle. First of all, the timeline is far too short. Going from a size 10 to a size 11 "winning for summer" is simply not healthy.

ON THE WEB: Continued on our website coverage at [www.macleans.ca/convertdigital](http://www.macleans.ca/convertdigital)

French didn't gain 10 lbs in a couple of months. Secondly, I agree with Susan Felsky Hines, the diurnal speed in the article, that French's diet will more than likely be lacking in carbohydrates and possibly important in weight. But what really hurt me was the final statement by Franco, that when it was all over, she planned to reward herself with a steak and a glass of wine. Although the "challenge" may get her 15 minutes off and some temporary weight loss, after that steak dinner reward, she may find herself right back where she started. Jeff Simpson, Fort Collins

### THE BLACK MOOD

I AM A FAN of a small church and have an interesting perspective, but, to me, the Conrail Black book does seem so unfair ("Bombs being set off by a cleric," Interview, June 18). A century in "black" may be about as long as a century. She is in a career of being a successful legal aid consultant for a lifetime of work! I don't think so, even if he did make a mistake in choosing the wrong business partner. I find a great compassion for this man. He needs to know that the most important things are his wife and his family—the people he can count on—not money and status and money. That will all fall away and crumble like dust in the wind. Martin Warren, Fort Millberry, Ala.

DO YOU HONESTLY believe that Conrail Black's book about a dead, diagnosed American president will generate so much interest that it will merit eight pages of coverage? ("Death before dawn," World, May 21) Or that the average Canadian cares so much about the fate of that book's author that his trial merits sustained coverage? Speaking for myself, I say "Good God, no." Susan Redding, Ottawa

### IN PASSING

FRANÇOIS-GILLES de Gennep, 74, scientist. He won the 1981 Nobel Prize for physics for his breakthrough on liquid crystals, which have become ubiquitous in electronic devices such as flat screen TVs. In the 1960s and early 1970s, de Gennep was the first person to describe how crystals could modulate their light and polarize it into the chiral state of liquid.

Don Williams, 85, songwriter. He composed 60 songs for Glen Campbell, who called him "the real great one," perhaps in reference to Williams' singing as a childhood friend. Among his songs of comfort were "Baby Let Me Take You Home" and "Don't Give Up the Ship."

# READ MARK STEYN

## DAILY FROM THE CONRAO BLACK TRIAL AT MACLEANS.CA



# MACLEANS.CA

ROGERS  
New York City, N.Y.

## A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF DICK CHENEY

Last week, a photo was released of Cheney posing with his wife, Lynne, and their new grandson, Eli's daughter Mary, who will share her son with her lesbian partner, was not pictured. On Saturday, two days before Memorial Day, in what is now known as the Mosbacher memo for U.S. troops in Iraq since 2004, Cheney urged 93 young graduates of New York's Military Academy at West Point to prepare to defend freedom. Protesters gathered nearby and called for his impeachment.

## Good news

## Peace is the word

There were no deals or breakthroughs, but this week's meeting of U.S. and Iranian diplomats in Baghdad—the first formal contact in almost 30 years—in case for optimism. Both sides shared a common interest in creating a stable, democratic and peaceful Iraq. But even as positively inclined as they will meet again, perhaps putting Iraq's nuclear program on the agenda. It's all part of a belated trend by the Bush administration to move away from its post-9/11 unilateralism in the Middle East. The carrot and stick approach has proven productive with other regional powers like Libya, and to a lesser extent, North Korea. It's worth a try with Iran.

## The right to fight

The fact that taxpayers actually have rights will come as a revelation to many Canadians. Still, the federal "Tanner" decision to expand the federal government's Civil Liberties Agency official and provide the public with a written guarantee of professional, courteous first dealings is a welcome one. The creation of a federal ombudsman to review service department records even better, although one wonders about the cost effectiveness of chafing all of those complaints through an official when all they can do is make recommendations. It's a step in the right direction, but Ottawa really needs to play nice, if all costs are too.

## Seeking their trade

Chinese officials have a rather progressive proposal for Canada and other developed countries: establish trade missions if they permit us to to conduct inspections who are imprisoned from countries with a low death penalty rate.

## Bad news

## Fear factor

Have politicians solved all the other problems? This week, as protesters in Moscow celebrated their negative reputation by burning a gay rights march, they denounced U.S. troops in Iraq who tried to deliver a petition, instead of the ugly counter-demonstrators who threw eggs and punches in Poland. The consensus is government plans to demonstrate once and for all whether Turkey's Weekly of the Tabernacle promotes its "born sexual life."

has played PM Sherry Ahl's office for months. On Tuesday, the former head of another top state government agency suggested in the scandal jumped to his death. In China, the nation's top drug regulator was sentenced to death for taking bribes to ignore untamed madmen. The stress of public trust is a serious offense, but killing the problem is not the same as addressing it.

## I bet no one cares

Odds are it's the latest line in political history. Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty and California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger have waged war, a matter, a drug-war jacket, Tim Horowitz and Irish police on the occasion of the Ontario vs. Asia beat Stanley Cup final. The only thing that could make the post most boringly common is carbon effects. Historically, such has been on ritual harassment—lower was the winning team's colors on the opposition's flag. Why not go the other way? We say make the unlucky pot hit his back. Little to MC as official dinner.

## FACE OF THE WEEK



**SPREAD PLEASE:** A rain-soaked Ashley Judd cheers on her husband, Scotland's David Prosser, as he takes first place in the July 300.

## Against all odds

Nature was particularly finicky this week, and yet, as a series of unusual hurricanes, one prevailed. One 40-year-old husband went to a home remodeling job and to the floor of his bedroom and told him there for 20 minutes until he arrived. In Australia, two toddlers wandered off and got lost in the bush as teenagers planned and announced for more than 24 hours. They were found in thick brush, asked, two miles from where they started. "We had him," the two-year-old girl told her mother. Two that, more.

style." At least some hotel-level security officials in Atlanta are finally getting the message. They've removed gay groups from an online list of potential terrorist organizations.

## Too high a price

We're hardly in line of account ability among public officials—in fact, we'll happily see more of it—has there been a series of well-compensated personal pay. On Monday, Japan's minister of agriculture hung himself in his Tokyo home rather than face questioning over his alleged role in a public funding scandal that

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LOVE STORY: JOHN BAIRD

## LIBERALS DANCE THE HORA

The Liberals won a handful of MPs and party members to the recent Walk for Israel in Toronto. Stéphane Dion's posse included Winnipeg MP Anita Neville and Toronto MPs Ken Dryden, Joe Volpe, Bob Rae, Gerald Kennedy and Michael Ignatieff, to name but a few. One higher-up at the Canadian Jewish Appeal Federation, the walk's organizer, was given bling over the fact Ignatieff has not gone on the trip to Israel he hopes to go in October.

Some Liberals were straggly: that the Conservatives had only one MP present, Environment Minister John Baird. While Dion got yelled at by one man over worn UN resolutions concerning Israel that Canada supported under the former Liberal government, the Conservatives are seen to be warmly greeted. In fact, Baird has been doing very well with the Jewish community. He received a standing ovation at Congregation Chevra Kadisha D'Yan Jacob-Beth Hachaim, an Orthodox Montreal synagogue, for a speech supporting Israel.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MITCHEL RAPHAEL

## MITCHEL RAPHAEL ON THE 7-KM ISRAEL WALK AND THE 160.9-KM DINNER

Members said they can't recall anyone ever giving a standing ovation in the synagogue. One of the most impressive Liberals at the walk was Dion's wife, **Justine Kruttschnitt**, who led her husband and MPs to dance the hora. She was wearing high-heeled wedge shoes and didn't miss a beat.

The seven kilometre walk had four stops. Most politicians bailed after the first one: Capital Hill was only able to find two MPs, both Liberals, who walked the well-worn route. **Owen Brown** Coder, who is Jewish and a darling of the Canadian Jewish community. The other was **Boysie Wrenn**, who had during a trip to Lebanon last summer that Canada's dealings with Hezbollah, a group on Canada's terrorist list. He was condemned by his party and had to resign as deputy foreign affairs critic. Wrenn was named and named an Israeli flag the whole walk.

## STRAITFORD CHICKEN

When London, Ont., NDP MP **Heese McPherson** taught **Crack to English**, the caught **Bob**

DION visits Toronto (clockwise from top left): **Justine Kruttschnitt** and **Stéphane Dion**



Hephern passing a note to the top five Israeli girls in the class. "I got a talking-to about respect for women," says Hephern, who is now 3 and the NDP's riding association president. He recently helped coordinate a le-

Academy as a politician, participating in the 19th century provided an exceptional dinner that included McPherson. "Her house is too small to host," said one of the NDP's Academics, the conditions decided to send



PROVIDED VILLAGE: NDP MP Heese McPherson performed at dinner

all kindness for McPherson at Fairbank Pioneer Village, where the NDP's critic for the status of women sponsored the event. She was a green stone, joined through a purple ribbon with white trim to remember English refugees who had adopted the colours green, white and violet, the usual letters of which are the same as "Give Women Voice."

A delegate from "red meat" and yelled for pasta. "I have a registered one right here," shouted **Grace Robertson** of the National Farmers Union.

The meal was billed as a "100 km Sustainable" dinner: all the food came from within 100 km of London. **Joan Macneil** of **Elmwood** catering said they had to cheat and use the American 100-mile rule, which is 160.9 kilometres. The food tasted divine. The chicken was from **Smith** and the maple syrup for the glaze was from a local farm. Other dinner suppliers included **herbicide**, **herbicide** in the end. The one item from beyond the 100-mile limit was the beer. They served **Alexander Keith's** at the NDP's request, even though **Liberal** has a brewery right in London. Perhaps superb food and good entertainment at political fundraisers is part of why Elections Canada recently reported that in the last quarter the NDP raised twice as much money as the Liberals. ■

**ON THE WEB:** For more Ottawa outcomes or to contact Mitchell Raphael, visit [mitchelraphael.com](http://mitchelraphael.com)

# A new German threat for Sarkozy's France



PAUL WILLIS

For a man in a rush to get on with the future, Nicolas Sarkozy spent much of his first day as France's president working behind the scenes. His first official act was to call for high school students to read, every autumn, the last letter of Guy de Maupassant, a 19-year-old seaman who was shot by the Nazis in 1941. Before Sarkozy was in Berlin to meet Germany's chancellor, Angela Merkel. It's hard to imagine another country whose head of state would stage a foreign visit on his first day in office. But in France the symbolism is obvious. Trauma's fire and Germany's have always been bonded together, for good or ill.

Soon enough Sarkozy had stowed the history books. Full speed ahead. "France is a Formula One car," said the president's hand-picked prime minister and egg-popping partner, François Fillon, using a metaphor that might not come automatically to most outside observers. "It must be driven to the limit of its capacities. It is to reach the front ranks of international competition." Fillon would appear to be the Sarkozy regime's inaugural slogan-chef. The boss campaigned on a promise of "rupture." There were the old days of "veritable earthquakes!" Fillon promised "a cultural revolution – a historic chance to profoundly transform France – [France has] no more time to waste any more."

In fact, it will have to find at least a little more time to waste a little more time. Presidents are elected on a different schedule from the members of France's National Assembly, and the two rounds of legislative elections won't take place until June 10 and 17. Fillon can't pass laws without that parliament. He has done what he could in the meantime, launching negotiations with labour unions on flexible new job contracts and an extended services provision that would, in theory, produce a kind of miracle France that isn't consistently hobbled by union strikes.

A parliamentary majority for Sarkozy and Fillon's centre-right UMP party seems assured. From there it's off to the races. A special law on parliamentary immunities will tackle all the work Sarkozy and Fillon will send lawmakers' way. Looser rules permitting universities to recruit profit and organize partnerships with industry as they like. A "Marshall Plan" to attack chronic unemployment in the heavily Muslim suburbs. Tax-free overtime pay for anyone who wants to work more than 35 hours a week. Mortgage interest deductions for new home owners. A university school choice for at least some students' parents. A 50 per cent top rate on income tax. "We must go very quickly," Fillon said. "France has lost a lot of ground."

Of course every new government everywhere is inclined to bustle, even Stephen Harper, once learned it is busy to do big things. But if Sarkozy and Fillon ever run out

days ended, the pace of reform continues. Next year, taxes on most German businesses will be cut 10 per cent on average. Sarkozy has nothing that radical on his agenda. Germany's accelerating success will either egg Sarkozy on or show him up. France's fate in all Germany's have always been bound together, for good or ill.

Sarkozy has one more spectre to urge him on: his predecessor's. The national weekly *Le Canard Enchaîné* has a forestable record for getting its hard cases right, and lately it has been reporting on "explosive" documents that suggest "large sums of money" found their way into a secret Japanese bank account in Jacques Chirac's name. The old money will probably be presidential immunity, but that runs out on June 16. As early as the next day, he could be called in for questioning. "Once the documents are verified, there is enough material to open a new investigation into

## Germany's accelerating reforms and success will either egg Sarkozy on—or show him up



of cases, they will be reminded of their shores by their neighbours. Many of those might be seen as French. Last week, *Le Monde* interviewed weekly regular French citizens who've fled to the relative tax haven of Belgium and the Netherlands. They wished Sarkozy well, but none plans to return to France even if Sarkozy does everything he promised. For these people who could be exciting France's wealth but are busy creating other nations', even a Formula One electric motor can't make them a weekend out of his torpor.

More pressure will come from Germany. It was the sick man of Europe half a decade ago, but market reforms began by the Social Democrat Gerhard Schröder and accelerated under Merkel have now begun to boost growth. And long after Merkel's first 100

breath of trust and communion," an inaugural inaugural told *Le Canard*.

Sarkozy and Chirac have a rocky past, but they do come from the same party. The son of the older man will run the younger if he lets them. He has denied any plan to grant Chirac immunity. He had been accused. He was his job by promising to break with too long tradition of uneasy do-nothingism. Germany's Merkel is setting the pace he must meet or beat. If his determination flags he will wind up looking like a shaver. Rather Chirac Revolution or chastisement. The stakes are high, and we will know before autumn how it all ends. M

ON THE WEB For more Paul Willis, visit his blog at [www.msn.ca/voices/paulwillis](http://www.msn.ca/voices/paulwillis)



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# Joan and George save me; I save the snails



BARBARA AMIEL

We came back to Toronto last weekend and my first thing I has been. Unlike my husband, I am a creature of routine. Chicago routine is straightforward: get up at 6:45 a.m., leave for court at 8:25 a.m., get down to pleasant court security at 8:50 a.m., listen to noisy things said about us till 5 p.m., with a lunch break for one banana and a carton of skim milk (in case of the utterly first Republican boxes of fruit, chicken and something weirdly yellow that appear in the small room set aside for defense counsel). Back to the hotel. Watch Jeopardy! and George for five minutes, make dinner in the really gilly kitchen of our hotel suite, and then was off to bed.

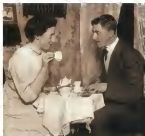
This has been repeated for the past 20 weeks and will continue for at least another four or five. Taking time out to come home requires a psychological flexibility that grows more complex.

Joan and George are a couple of modest means age—late 50s to 60s—grey—and are not actually identified by name but it is clear to me that they are Joan and George. What ever you earn on the hotel industry as they appear, these couple with a five by five sliding down with hand towels over their noses and pouring around the hotel's corridors. I can't get enough of them, especially the moment that comes 28 seconds into their journey when they encounter a fitness machine up the back stairs and politely bubble close to the wall so as not to impede his journey to save someone like me who would probably have done something foolish. He smashes my hand window and hurt strangers below.

Control worries that those gone today. He quite often goes to dinner as the owner's—arguing me to join him—but I prefer eating my own chicken watching George and Joan before working. Day ends with hand laundry and her bed while leaving to find with British symphonies and Ray Charles

before reading myself to sleep (I'm enjoying the late 19th-century novel *New Girl* by George Gissing, which confirms how remarkable are the survival techniques of journalists and petty intelligentsia, hiding and bedclobbering one another then just as today).

A love of routine is variously described as childlike behaviour and/or neurotic response, but I think it is more likely an English upbringing. George Orwell's 1946 *Evening Standard* article "A Nice Cup of Tea," giving what he personally took to be the 11 essential signs in making a "cuppa," turns up the cast of mind with which I grew up. Not unlike the mind that allowed Jonathan Swift to parody the angels on the head of a pin argument.



## What weapon against mortality have two frail people besides shared ritual and habit?

about the difference between constabulation and immobility is that by turning it into a war between the Big Endians and Little Endians over the correct way to eat an egg.

The strength of routine—and a nice cup of tea—struggled during the visit that we my initial reason for coming back to Toronto, a trip to say goodbye to my grandfather in the last round of his fight against metastasized cancer. Against all odds, my grandfather was still making 81-year-old mother and morning good afternoon. By now lighter than good noon, he can't lie like to rearrange the pillows behind her bird-like frame, but he punches with the leathery and clogs, carefully putting legs in first seconds. In a routine of defecation, a facemask the journey across the river steps this could separate them. What other weapon against mortality have two frail people—as deeply in love with each other as when my sister and I waved goodbye to them as they headed across the 1940s—besides shared ritual and habit?

Back in Toronto, we went for a walk in the evening darkness. I suppose it is the morning grass in the empty plots of land close to us that attracted the snails, but doesn't we were making a perilous journey from one side of the road to the other. Just why so many had decided to leave a safe field for a far smaller herd of grass is incomprehensible, but no less rational than much of human routine. I watched the journey of these newly elegant creatures, everything packed on their backs, trying to relocate in a war zone of automobiles and tramping feet. One's sense of fair play made it difficult to resist helping them across the road. So I did. At first they retreated into their shells but then I put the bag of it and they lay in my palm perfectly quiet until I put them down. At home I googled snails and discovered that they are almost as distasteful as the tedious gossip that they defecated the ones around us last year. My reporting of them across the road would appear to be in violation of the spirit of some statutory regulations in various provinces and states, which, given the brown snail's pace,

have declared it questionable. My defence of snails represented of course. I am presently living in Chicago, where in April 2006 declared the snail of the great illegal. Forced feeding of goss is probably a hostile thing but I should deny that false grass should be delicious. Mayor Daley said it was "the silliest law" city council has ever passed, and he is probably right. Some restaurants are giving fast grass a free and conscientious has served—has his attention to it. I hadn't thought of fast grass for ages. Back in Toronto, on leave at a work, I went straight to Ojima and gulped some down. What I succeeded the goss ought to be made for the snail as well, but then if a human fast grass is good to eat, can a ban on snail for fast grass be good to eat, or a ban on snail for fast grass? I ought to worry, but professionally speaking, snails are not part of my routine. ■

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\*Fletcher RH, Fairfield KM. Vitamin for Chronic Disease Prevention in Adults. *JAMA*. 2006;297:3127-3137.



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## IT'S A WORLD OF TROPHY MALES

Nothing builds a champion quite like an outsize piece of metal or crystal, as evidenced by last weekend's orgy of sporting triumphs.

- 7 **Devo** **Franchetti** awards winning the **Italy International 500** races
- 8 **Golf** **Roy** **Selkowitz** hits his **jack** at the **Crown Plaza** **Invitational**
- 9 **Captain** of the **Colts** **soccer** team: **Neil** **Norman** **embraces** the **Toronto** **Scotch** **cup** after **beating** **Dunfermline** **Athletic** in **Glasgow**
- 10 **The** **Russian** **cup** **went** **home** **with** the **FC** **Lokomotiv** **Moscow** **soccer** **team** after **they** **beat** **FC** **Moskva**
- 11 **Summer** **Grand** **Slim** **Tournament**: **champ** **David** **Kahala** **holds** the **Empire** **Cup** **while** his **wife**, **Bevise** **holds** **their** **baby** **cup**
- 12 **Norwegian** **players** **halt** the **German** **soccer** **cup** **DFB** **Pokal**
- 13 **AC** **Milan** **filiped** **trough** **with** the **Champions** **League** **soccer** **trophy**
- 14 **New** **Zeland** **rugby** **players** **cheer** **their** **1988** **London** **Sixes** **win**
- 15 **The** **Vancouver** **Gulls** **play** **rough** **cham** **to** the **Memorial** **Cup**







# A 'CANADIAN SPY'

**Afghan authorities claim a Calgary man in a Kabul jail is part of a larger network backing the insurgency**

BY ADAM B. KHAN & MICHAEL KOHLER  
Sohail Qureshi looks nothing like a suicide bomber. There are no scars in his eyes, no oversized steps of a martyr within. As he emerges into the sunlight from the shadows of his prison cell in Kabul, his long strides are confident and assured, his steady hand masking a face buried in a passive innocence—like a child caught with his hand in the cookie jar. “Are you from the Canadian police?” he asks the stranger who has come to meet him. Qureshi, 34, speaks in a reserved tone, but it quickly changes when he discovers the man standing in front of him is no police officer. “I don’t want to talk to people from the media,” he says, calling for the guard to take him back to his cell. “The media wants everything.”

For three weeks now, Sohail Qureshi has been front page news in Canada—the mysterious Calgary man who somehow ended



up behind bars in Afghanistan. The details surrounding his arrest are still sketchy, but the bits and pieces of evidence that have surfaced so far seem to suggest another case of “foreign-born” extremism, and the story of a young Canadian Muslim who converted the cell to jihad. Madani’s hope is that Qureshi’s clarity of the story—to offer him a chance to deny all the rumors and accusations—but he refused to talk.

Although he is incarcerated, Qureshi has yet to be charged with any crime, and so far no Afghan authorities are concerned, the investigation is still “ongoing.” The Canadian government has refused to confirm anything more than this: a Canadian citizen is in Afghan custody, and Canadian consular officials have been given full access to the prisoner. When Stephen Harper made a surprise trip to Kandahar last week, he did not even mention Qureshi’s case during his meeting with Afghan President Hamid Karzai.

But despite all the secrecy, Madani has received several e-mails and details about what happened to the University of Calgary graduate, and why Afghan authorities seem so interested.

**QURESHI LEFT** has been locked up for three weeks so far without being charged

to keep him in custody. “We believe he is part of a larger network in Canada that is supporting the Afghan insurgency,” says one senior official in the country’s Attorney General’s office. “This is a serious case. We have advised Canadian authorities and requested that they investigate this network. We want them to arrest those involved.”

When Qureshi was first apprehended in mid-May, he reportedly continued to play along a subtle game in Afghanistan in memory of a “brother” said to have converted a similar brother in Kabul on Sept. 10, 2006. The Ministry of the Interior quickly renounced that claim. Other details, previously reported as fact, are also erroneous. Reports that Qureshi was pulled up while exiting a bus from Pakistan, for example, have proven false. Instead, according to Abdul Hashi Arsan, the commanding officer at Kabul’s 9th Police District headquarters where Qureshi was first brought in for questioning, the arrest was made between 3 and 10 p.m., while Qureshi was on patrol on a search of the Bagram Road (on the southernmost outskirts of Kabul)

road. “We found him,” said a police officer stationed at a checkpoint on the road, close to the spot where Qureshi was picked up. “It was right there when he was arrested.” That’s all it can tell you. This is a sensitive political issue. No one is allowed to talk about it.

Gen. Mawla Harise, head of the anti-terrorism division of the Afghan Ministry of the Interior, says Qureshi entered Afghanistan from Pakistan at least two times prior to being arrested, travelling around the country on such occasions. During one trip, he wrote as far as the western city of Mazar-i-Sharif, where he stayed for 11 days before returning to Kabul. The purpose of those earlier trips, authorities now allege, was part of a larger effort to support the Afghan insurgency. “This man is not simply a suicide bomber,” Harise says. “But he is somehow connected to al Qaeda or the Taliban.” In fact, the source inside the Attorney General’s office alleges Qureshi’s insurgent contacts extend all the way back to Canada.

Qureshi was carrying a notebook the day he was arrested. In it, according to the source

**THE TIGHT-LIPPED** Harper government will only say that a Canadian citizen is being held in an Afghan prison (below) and Canadian officials have been given full access to him



Bates don’t travel on that section of road, and no one would be dropping off passengers in that area after dark. Armed with heavily guarded and armed escorts, Bagram Road, a primary route to the Bagram military airfield north of Kabul, is a daytime transport artery, clogged with trucks and cars. At night, it turns into a desolate place used mainly by NATO and Afghan security forces.

“It’s common knowledge that foreign troops

in the Attorney General’s office, are detailed from about a German military base in Mazar.” The notes show that this man was watching the “brother die,” says the official, who agreed to speak to Madani on condition of anonymity. “We trust members, movements and details about the security services of the base.” Also included in the notebook is contact information for known militants inside Pakistan. Authorities claim further investiga-

tion has revealed that Qureshi was also from porting money, which he allegedly passed to members of Hizb-e-Islami, a well-known fundamentalist Islamic group fighting West extremists—including Canadians—in Afghanistan. Led by waves of warlord Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, Hizb-e-Islami has been linked to various attacks against NATO and Afghan security forces. Hekmatyar, it has also been claimed, is Pakistan’s Iron Sheikh (Iron Wolf) (35). “We think Qureshi is either working for the ISI or with Iranian spy elements,” says the Attorney General’s source, pointing out that Qureshi is Muslim in Paris, Iran’s national language. Some is the ministry believe he could have been recruited by Iranian agents, the source adds.

A Canadian investigator has arrived in Kabul, although he is not, as yet, working with law enforcement agency he represents, nor is he. Neither the RCMP nor the Department of Foreign Affairs would comment further or even confirm what is being investigated. Alberta’s Muslim community has also closed ranks. Many are disappointed with the media’s coverage of the case, which has been loaded with speculation. Nagah Hajar, chair of the Muslim Council of Calgary, says he specifically asked community members not to speak to the media and more focus have been released.

Still, some details about Qureshi’s life, process, are starting to emerge. He spent his childhood in England, reportedly in Manchester, before he and his family (his parents and at least one sister) immigrated to Canada. News reports said the family lived in several cities across the country before arriving in Calgary from Prince Albert, Sask., about six years ago. His father, Dr. Zia Qureshi, originally from Pakistan, is a popular family doctor who runs a medical clinic out of a strip mall in Calgary’s northwest quadrant, an area of the city that is home to a large Muslim population. According to his listing with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta, Qureshi is proficient in number of languages beyond English, including Arabic, Hindi, Farsi and Urdu. Sohail’s mother, originally from Iran, is the youngest of the three. Several attempts to contact Qureshi’s parents were rebuffed.

Syed Sohrawardy, president of the Islamic Settlement Council of Canada and a Calgary resident, told Madani that last November, during a visit, a member of the city’s Pakistan community asked him in a matter-of-fact way whether he knew a Dr. Qureshi, whose son, the man said, had helped extremist views. Sohrawardy told him he did not. When the allegations emerged with Qureshi’s arrest three weeks ago, Sohrawardy recalled that conversation. He now feels sure the the

younger Qureshi had been a target of Canadian intelligence at least as far back as November. "What I know, he was chased by our intelligence agencies for many months—that's what I know for sure."

At about the same time last year, Sheikh Alaa Elsayed, a Calgary imam, received a call from a local father begging him to talk with his son, who was determined to fight with insurgents in Afghanistan. Elsayed, who refused to speak with Muslims for this story, earlier said after more caution that he counseled young men matching Sheikh's description for several weeks before the meeting "failed."

Alienated Harb, a former president of the University of Calgary's Muslim Students' Association, recalls Qureshi, who graduated last year with a degree in computer science

Western Islamism living in the very country they despise. Many are second-generation Canadians, young men and women who are recruited and radicalized online. That appeared to have been the case last June, when police arrested 18 suspected terrorists in Toronto—many of them in their teens and twenties who were allegedly plotting a bomb attack on Canadian soil. "We're not really coming to grips with the final truth about the vilification of Canada and the development of a base of anti-Canadian hatred and anti-Western hatred within our own neighborhoods," says David Harris, a former chief of strategic planning for CSIS. "On top of all the documented instances of Canadian youth who have devoted themselves to radical Islamism, including conscription with the enemy, it would hardly be surprising if

when Canada's two major anti-terrorism centres—Mountain View and the "Toronto 18"—finally reached it. "We will have some understanding of those things that happen, who was involved, why people decided on this course of action, what sort of misguided thought they had in their minds, how they were inspired, who inspired them, and who paid for them," Mark says. "That will be the ultimate eye-opener, one that Canada needs."

In the meantime, the country's Muslim leaders find themselves floundering, yet again, in answer to the alleged violent aggression of



some of their own. "It is important not to let us go out on an amateur and gentleman's tour," says Bettner Zelen, a spokesman for the Canadian Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR CAN). "And it's also important to remember that sometimes these things are more perceived than real." When asked if the problem of terrorism is real or perceived, Zelen often shrugs it away. "I think it's a little bit of both. The broad Canadian community feels that this is in some way it is the foundation and should be forefront on the agenda. It should be a blessing thing, a bit out of proportion. At the same time, though, I think we cannot be in denial. There might be a few people who might need to have more education as when the Islamic perspective is, it is a terrorism. Terrorism is wrong. It is not something that is congruent with the Islamic faith."

Tarek Fatah, one-time director of communications for the Muslim Canadian Congress, says the growing prominence of smaller places of worship at universities and in private homes contributes to radicalization. "They are literally the secret societies that you go to," he says. "None of these networks can be identified. Nobody knows. Qureshi might know. But he isn't talking. He wants to walk back and tell all of it rather than set the record straight."

His rap sheet, however, speaks volumes about what he faces, especially the last two weeks printed on the bottom of the page "Canadian 9/11."

By Michael Posadsky

PHOTOGRAPHS BY AP/WIDEWORLD; ILLUSTRATION BY STEVE FREED; CAPTIONING BY



LAST YEAR'S CONTROVERSY OF Lebanon may seem mild compared to looking past Kyoto

## IT'S GETTING WARM IN HERE

Harper heads to the G8 with temperatures rising on climate change

BY JOHN KIRTON • To hear his critics yell it, there are only two possible status points: Martin's Kyoto Hinges might edge on climate change, at the worst. G8 nations: pro-European or pro-U.S. That's all dropping those have been the two dominant positions during these negotiations in the run-up to the June 6 G8 meetings in the G8 summit room of the Heligoland. That year's host, Chancellor Angela Merkel, is leading a European push for strong consensus on combating global warming, such as setting a target of halving greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. The Americans are having none of it, with President George W. Bush's negotiators repeatedly demanding that consensus and suggest being paid from their version of the climate compromise.

Which side Canada is on seems at times to depend on who's doing the talking. Environ minister Michael Mantha last fall appeared the Harper endorsed Merkel's position. Then Harper shifted the emphasis, stressing the need to bring the U.S. and China aboard for any deal to "The reality, according to University of Toronto political science professor

John Kirton, director of the G8 Research Group, is that Canada isn't squarely in either the European or U.S. camp, instead sharing a middle-ground position with Japan. Could that be the beginning of a new and Pacific ocean relation to Ottawa's foreign policy?

That might be going too far. In Japanese and Canadian talking points have been increasingly similar. Both countries stress that after the Kyoto summit in 2005, any new deal going forward must include the big consensus that never joined that original UN pact. "In order to have a post-2012 effective international protocol, we need to have all major emitters, including the United States and China, as part of this effort," Harper said. A Japanese spokesman echoed that, "Japan is rejecting Merkel's approach, saying, 'Japan cannot agree with this because we should think about how we can create non-Party members such as the U.S., China and India and others.'"

The G8 as a group has been a force for bringing world toward that broader pact. The world's most rich bands of governments club is no longer only about as full members, the U.S., Japan, Germany, France, Britain, Italy, Canada and Russia. A cluster of key emerging economies called the "G8+5"—India, China, Brazil, Mexico and South Africa—increasingly part of the climate process. If they agreed at Heligoland to form a climate summit, that consensus would, at least in principle, respond to the long-standing U.S. demand for developing countries to share the burden of addressing global

warming. "It would destroy the fundamental pact of Kyoto that global warming is all the fault of the rich, rich, white, expensive North," Kirton said, "and the poor countries of the South can do anything they want until they are as rich as us."

Harper's assertion that his officials were working toward a truly global agreement was hard to independently verify. Most of the key negotiators were carried out behind closed doors among so-called "sharps," the personal representatives appointed by the G8 leaders. Environment groups closely monitoring the process, however, were not detecting hints of any particular focus on Canada's part. "Canada's leaders" said Hans Voolen, director of the WRI's climate change program, "and looking the Americans do the negotiating for them—that's the impression I'm getting from talking to the negotiators."

But Kirton cautioned against assuming Harper will not have much impact. Recent G8 history shows Canada is capable of finding sometimes surprising ways to make itself heard. At last winter's get-together in St. Petersburg, Russia, for instance, Canadian officials took the lead in pushing for a robust G8 reaction to the war that broke out in Lebanon just before the leaders assembled. Russia, as the host, had proposed a joint G8 statement on the conflict, which Kirton said amounted to "UN-style boilerplate," a neutral plea for peace that was careful not to assign who was to blame for the conflict, mostly, he said, Hezbollah fighters. "The Canadian approach," he said, "was, 'No, this must become a serious group statement a democratic policy named here.'"

Harper may find it trickier to make his mark this time around. Crafting a response to a summit's implicitly resolving Middle East conflict is the kind of professional diplomacy, according to Canada, in this year's climate change talks might demand a more personal approach. As a former climate change skeptic, who only recently embraced the need for serious, long-term emissions reductions, Harper looks uniquely positioned to appeal to both to make the same sort of conversion. "Harper is valuable because not long ago he was where Bush is," Kirton said. "He gives the Europeans confidence that North Americans are on move."



### HOCKEY OR A PRIME MINISTER HILLIER WON'T SAY.

"The Prime Minister is the visible representation that this country is a part of what these men and women are doing, and maybe that sometimes them the first day they can get up and account for it because we ask them to do it."—Chief of the Defence Staff Gen Rick Hillier on Stephen Harper's trip to Afghanistan last week. It followed one by former NHL player, and the Stanley Cup, to Afghanistan. Hillier wouldn't say which was more appreciated.

### 'HE WAS CHASED BY OUR INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES FOR MONTHS'



WHILE most Muslims pray in traditional settings—like the Calgary Islamic Centre—the trend of using smaller places of worship, says Fatah (right), contributes to radicalization

as tall and shiny. He focused down past our jeans, wore glasses, kept his hair short and cut it in a short beard. He's last seen Qureshi in November, when he said he was working at a large counter company, buying outdoor delicacies at the shipping depot area. "He wasn't working in his field," says Harb. "After that I didn't see him." Harb, 35, is currently based in Ottawa. "Qureshi was a very quiet, very quiet," he says. "I was working with him in Afghanistan, and I was certainly not about Canadian authorities. June 9/11, the case of my spy agency, CSIS, has repeatedly issued public warnings about the growth of these groups in terrorism—the rise of radical, anti-

there were yet another combatant dedicated to our defense."

On October 10, funding for CSIS for the fiscal year ending March 2006, terrorist groups funded last estimated \$25 million through Canada, according to the Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada (FINTRAC), the federal anti-money launderer in January. "It is not a new pattern," says Wesley B. White, security expert and professor at the University of Toronto's Munk Centre for International Studies. "It is hard for [Muslim] communities, say like in the Caucasus at large, to believe that this is really going on here. It will take time and it will take hard evidence and facts." Some of these facts, he says, will start to surface in the coming months.



# WHY ENGLAND IS ROTTING



**It leads Europe in illiteracy, obesity, divorce, drug use, crime and STDs. Bloody hell.**

**BY MARTIN NEWLAND**

**T**here used to be a time when taking on the Royal Navy was a bad idea. The force that policed the high seas through two world wars and produced the largest cruise ever seen was the pride and joy of British national pride and patriotism. Which is why it was particularly humiliating for every Briton to see the spectacle of the navy's finest gung-ho sailors about their captain's corpse at sea in 1991 by the leftist Republican Guard at the newspaper. The British had already watched television "confessions" by service men, on which they criticized national foreign policy and admitted crimes and transgressions they had not committed.

But it was the paid sex workers given once daily because that left the nation wondering what has happened to traditional British reserve and the notion of the stiff upper lip. Leading Seaman Tony Murray told the nation of the sheer hell of being reduced to carrying corpses in solitary confinement while waiting to learn of their fate (British prisons, one is led to believe, are carcasses). And the dastardine Operator Mechanic Arthur Beacher complained to the media that the Royal

Naval Guard had taken away his iPod and called him Mr. Bean.

It was a long before commentators drew parallels between the behaviour of our fighting personnel and the collapse of traditional British values. The venerable rule of courts no more exists. The lip-service, as it were, said the upstate "disgruntled" just how deeply British society has been corrupted by the twin acts of celebrity and globalization. These sentiments were echoed by the social commentator Theodore Dalrymple, who said the often showed Britain "to be a country of very slight concern, with a population amazingly unable to distinguish the trivial from the important and the trivial from the real, by a man of the most frivolous concern who for many years has been given to gushes of cheap moral enthusiasm."

The Chan Ali Arab after war, he contended, a sign of a decline by British leadership to be both "philanthropic and ladylike, General Patton and Gandhi, Kumbha and [person reformer] Elizabeth Fry." Our service men are potent killers, and yet make good subjects for the chat show, much in striving to be both, they end up being a nothing.

This dichotomy runs through the country



these servicemen are paid to defend Britain is, for instance, a champion of first markets, but also admittance to one of the poorest and most unpredictable state economies in the world. Britain believes in multiculturalism, but children in Muslim areas are the veil. The country believes in freedom of choice by individuals and parents, but prohibits selection in schools and restricts national legislation regarding freedom of speech and protest. Every year since Labour's landslide 1997 victory, Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown has delivered budget speeches in the House of Commons trumpeting Britain's sustained growth with record low unemployment and inflation. We are told of a mission ending of socialist philanthropy with market (neo-)development. We are reminded of Labour's war on child poverty, of its substantial rise in the elderly, of its sustained investment in health care and education, but also of the positioning of the nation's economic powerhouse of Europe, chasing out dinosaurs, well educated graduates who are more than capable of taking on the Asian Tiger economies.

Britain is, apparently, smother with disposable wealth, laden with opportunity, bountiful with economic and social options. CEOs and critics bosses can live happily together, either side of a green-stained wage. The social safety net, which guarantees world-class public services for every body, free at the point of need, have been eroded of their most first forces, offering one for those unfortunate who find themselves unable, through no fault of their own, to benefit from Britain's economic miracle.

And we don't just see the point at home. Gordon Brown and shadowed departed Prime Minister Tony Blair are fully paid up members of the Euzo/Arab/Gelbel African anti-poverty movement, established to divert G8 agendas and overseas aid programs to issues of Third World debt relief and the scourge of AIDS and underdevelopment.

The government trumpets unique and long standing "British values," but has done away with some of the constitutional "structures" of the past. Wales has devolved assembly, Scotland its own parliament, and Northern Ireland over the most self-governance works ago. All members of the "union" still have full access to institutions guaranteed in England. However, The House of Commons will act as a way to becoming either an elected, or an appointed chamber, or a hybrid of the two.

The House of Commons is increasingly marginal and its policy development in government policy are revealed to be totally unrepresentative by the way they are approached by the media. Republicanism is on the rise among the ruling elites, though not yet among the

masses. The Queen was forced to give up her beloved royal yacht Britannia and will soon be limited around on a ship dubbed "Blair Force One," to be shared with Gordon Brown.

Brown maintains European integration, has shored the euro, and all are invited to share their heads desperately at the academic, economic and social models of the Continent, board by ruling employment toward most in protection and economic conditions. However, we are led to believe that Britain and the United States are mutual economic bedfellows, chasing ever higher levels of regulation and ever higher levels of productivity.

To critic Dalrymple above, we are tough, but caring. We are competitive, but tolerant for the weak and the poor. We are modern, but in tune with tradition. We have, if the rhetoric is to be believed, established a utopia where the full spectrum of human endeavor and aspiration can find a home.

But consider the following statistics which, most will agree, point toward a fractured society, a spending economic drop and the total collapse of the former welfare system:

- UNICEF: the year ended British Britain in the league of industrialized nations in terms of the well being of children. This in a start lag fact, given that child welfare has been one of Gordon Brown's chief preoccupations throughout his 10 years in the Treasury.

- Labour has also failed to meet its own targets on the reduction of child poverty, and even despite the extra billions in welfare targeted at parents and carers.

- Britain also has the highest rate of teen age pregnancy in Europe, the highest pay per portion of single mothers, and one of the highest divorce rates.

- Britain ranks up, with France, in western Europe in terms of sexually transmitted disease. It has the highest obesity rate in Europe, with nearly a quarter of inhabitants classified as obese.

- Britain has one of the highest rates of alcohol abuse in Europe, with a quarter of Britons indulging in the use of binge drinking that every weekend in metropolitan cities and market towns into Glasgow and the Shetlands.

- Britain also leads Europe in terms of drug abuse. Cocaine use is highest in the United Kingdom, and use among secondary school pupils has doubled in the last year.

- Along with Ireland and Holland, Britain has the highest crime rate in Europe. London has a higher violence crime rate than thirty other cities in the European Union, higher than in Istanbul and New York City.

Perhaps most worrying is the situation of large sections of the country's young people. These are people detached from society, that live in a world of family, education and training, NEDS, or young people "not in education."

A NATION OF YOUNG, obese and struggling single mothers anti-social behaviour is on the rise everywhere. This England of stiff upper lip and good stable manners no longer exists.

LEONARDUS/GETTY IMAGES; JEFFREY M. HARRIS/GETTY IMAGES; DAVID H. HARRIS/GETTY IMAGES; JORDAN ROBERTS/GETTY IMAGES; PAVLO



tain, employment or training," now average about 10% (1.2 million) of Britain's 16- to 24-year-olds. In the 16 to 19 age bracket, 10 per cent are classed as NEETs, double the proportion in Germany and France—and that figure means spending an "infinite to work" without getting a job. Gordon Brown thus declared, on taking up the reins of power in 1997, that "youth unemployment is not an option."

Commentators scratch their heads at how so many young people are able to get away with this, literally, doing nothing, when there is apparently enough work for the hundreds of thousands of eastern Europeans who have entered the country since enlargement of the European Union a couple of years ago. One of the main watchdogs shows an television employer police closed circuit television on the footage of dramatic lows such as found in British streets and that it is necessary the NEETS who are throwing the punches.

And with the challenges of globalisation becoming every day more apparent, Britain's record on education declines steadily, despite a doubling of spending from £29 billion (£42 billion, using current exchange rates) in 1997 to £84 billion (£103 billion) projected for 2008. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development last year claimed a quarter of the British population aged between 25 and 34 are "low skilled" in terms of educational attainment, five times the numbers in Japan.

An OECD report also said that Britain lags behind in literacy rates among developed nations, and the U.S. Institute for Education Sciences says a high school in London is outperformed by 17 other countries in the developed world in terms of a student's ability. Recent statistics showed that fully one-half of some secondary schools are failing to provide pupils with a good standard of education, and 40 per cent of 11-year-olds are leaving primary school without having reached an appropriate level in reading, writing and maths. Grade inflation, through

## One child aged five or under is expelled from school every week. Older kids deal drugs and fight.

which the government stands accused of covering up low achievement, is endemic in 1998, for instance, a grade of 40 per cent was needed to get a C in GCSE math. By the year 2000 it was 18 per cent.

The government measures failure to selection in education, and teachers remain too little to any academic achievement within state schools. This means that in any given class room, a Somali refugee who does not speak English can't be alongside the pupil with learning difficulties who in turn can't see one with chronic behavioural problems who "learns" alongside the gifted pupil who would benefit from a greater challenge.

And, in general, policy of increasing "equal access" to higher education, universities have been told that, in effect, funding will be partly dependent on the future economic and social background of undergraduates they select. It will now also be important considerations to consider the education and social background of an applicant's parents, as well as the social history of the applicant himself, in allocating places.

The pressure on universities to accept, and then pass, under-qualified pupils who have little aptitude for further education has the inevitable effect of devaluing British knowledge base and competence. Employer and business organizations are already bemoaning the low literacy and numeric skills of

FOUR FIVE: Britain's class divide among industrialized nations is one of the widest in the world.

graduates, and the drawbacks of government manipulation of education standards will become increasingly manifest as Britain's private sector closer competition with the developing economies of India and China.

After the Prime Minister steps down on June 17, Gordon Brown will finally join the race to Number 10 and Blair will wander off, like his old friend Bill Clinton before him, into a world of multi-million-dollar book deals and income from Blair's law-in-Britain's grip on domestic affairs has always been obvious. The latter used his support on the left of the party to block real reform of health care and education, and stilled at birth the Prime Minister's more progressive (and market-driven) domestic plans through red tape, centralized control of the nation's justice system. Blair leaves with at the domestic legacy he created.

But it is probably just as well for Blair that he is leaving. For Britain's policies are beginning to turn sour, and Blair will be better off writing speeches as the teacher Robin Gibb's Fleetwoodway when the full scale of Britain's legacy becomes apparent.

Interest rates in March reached a 10-year high of 5.1 per cent, one of the fastest among developed nations. House prices—one of the most inflation sensitive factors in British household finances—are excluded from the official method of inflation measurement. If included, the real rate would be close to five per cent.

As a country when the average home costs nearly £200,000 (£430,000), property ownership remains a pipe dream for the poor and struggling middle class for blue-collar families and the middle class.

The home owner is faced with a precarious financial predicament: new homebuyers are facing an average mortgage of £150,000 (£332,000). This means that anyone on the average wage of £33,000 (£48,200) would be spending 79 per cent of take-home pay on the mortgage. And this is before factors such as interest rate debt, spending down on costs including a 70 per cent hike in property taxes over the last 10 years, and over 100 interest tax increases since 1997 take their share.

If interest rates continue to remain high, increased mortgage repayment to all those highly leveraged families referred to above could mean severe hardship and, worse, are preying, the bursting of the U.S. property bubble and subsequent movement by large parts of the property owning class into negative equity.

The International Monetary Fund is warning that public spending is too high and that public sector wage demands threaten Britain's

stability. But both sides have plenty of money under a Brown premiership. The state now employs a quarter of workers in Britain, and the 300,000 third since 1997 almost equals the fall in employment in the same period.

All seven million public sector workers are furnished with union-linked pensions, leaving the country with a current public sector pension liability of some \$400 billion, £700 billion (£1.1 trillion)—over the national debt. Brown's decision upon taking power to remove tax concessions on private pension funds has, inversely, devalued their value and chartered an extra £85 billion (£100 billion) a year to the Treasury. This has done little to improve Britain's savings culture and left the person holding a devalued private pension paying increased costs in tax to ensure his neighbour's public sector pension remains an emergency.

The welfare bill becoming unsustainable in 1997, only eight per cent of the working population even on benefits. Today the figure is 19 per cent, and some economic think tanks estimate that any claim of British householders to benefit from at least half their income. Caring for the demands of such a massive welfare operation and for the demands of the private sector workforce and public services (the National Health Service is one of the largest employers in the world) in the single largest share of the economy, and the IMF warns, will lead to rising inflation.

Gordon Brown has taken advantage of 10 years of growth to pump billions into public services, but with negligible results. In 1997, for instance, spending under National Health Service was £37 billion (£79 billion), rising to £90 billion (£194 billion) last year. Although critics of the NHS would argue for negative productivity, the most generous estimates point to a productivity increase of just 99 per cent between 1998 and 2004—a period during which spending doubled.

And by the end of last year, a service that has seen a funding increase of nearly 200 per cent since Labour came to power found itself, amazingly, facing a deficit of one year's cost (£6.1 billion). The urge to meet government targets resulted in a global manager over-hiring and over-managing malpractice charity (in its own efficiency) corruption standards. General practitioners in Britain can now earn over £18,000 (£33,000) a year, and a few even have to make house calls. And tens of thousands of managers were hired to administer centralized targets and unpleasant reforms.

Perhaps the greatest indicator of the NHS is the fact that thousands each year die from hospital-acquired diseases and infections. Officially, death rates stand at around 5,600 a year, but some experts, pointing to mis-

reporting of suspicious deaths by hospitals, suggest a figure four times as high.

The answer to the problem is simple education. All those extra billions, all those extra wages and wages and wages and wages, and thousands are still doing each year for the lack of properly equipped doctors and skilled staff.

And ordinary health outcomes, measured in deaths before 70 that were previously avoidable through good medical care, put Britain near the bottom of the league among developed nations in terms of cancer, heart

In the lead-up to the French elections, French politicians and businessmen were urging the prices of British—in lower tax rates, as five makes competitiveness. A BBC documentary focused on young French graduates pouring across the Channel to take up jobs in the British financial sector. But although personal income is higher in France, real location (taking into account Britain's so-called "hidden wealth") is shown on a par, and the French public services, while Britain's, are world class. London may well be a stepping place for the young French.

34-HOUR PARTY PEOPLE: In Newcastle, drinking houses were actually entered in 2005



## The country has the highest cocaine use in Europe, and one of the highest rates of alcohol abuse

drugs, but France is a far better place for it, as the drug market, seeks a good education for the children, like it grew old.

And London's not, frequently mistaken by outsiders in representing Britain as a whole, but because, in the words of the British ex-Minister of Communities Charles Moore, it "is a city with a fairly important economy attached." London's role as a financial centre on its way to displacing New York City has provided a vision of prosperity which, in a sense, tricks down to the population at large. But it is a city which increasingly only does so on welfare, or the super-rich, or is offered to it. It has become a playground for six domestic billionaires and financial wizards who receive multi-million pound bonuses on artificially inflated property prices and mortgage interest levels.

The IMF recently noted Britain alongside the lands of Barcelona and the Caucasus as a tax haven. Low taxes, economists from Great Britain paid more than the U.S. \$4.6 billion (£12.5 billion) on their own level £126 billion (£12.5 billion) from 1998. There is an argument to be made for some of this wealth

making down—perhaps to the catering and entertainment and other service industries, but the main burden of supporting Britain's gargantuan state machinery lies with the working and middle classes—many of them unable to afford a house in London.

The central government's policies, expanding on the ballooning public-sector and expanding welfare provision, have rendered large parts of the population under consideration in state housing. Added to this is the government's finances. For long London and overseas

wide program problems meet with state "super-savers" to teach them good child-rearing practices. At the same time, local governments and employers are urged to provide such services with training and other support services—the most notorious example of this was when a nurse sent a girl at a 16-hour shift and administered the dose in the restroom. Another girl of 14 had in short order after counselling from school health workers. In both cases, parents were not informed because of the child's right to privacy.

being enabled by the forces of political correctness. He points out that every government since 1945 has tried to do this. The government shows that families bound together by marriage are happier, healthier and wealthier, and he is planning to alter the tax system to provide incentives for marriage, fidelity within marriage, and child support.

A few weeks ago, Cameron refused to let the increasing lack of civility in British society. Given the case of the women forcing their children to fight for the camera, he said "all these are signs of a culture that is becoming devalued—and the terrible thing, we are getting used to it." Government's intervention in the realm of personal responsibility has targeted people, particularly parents, of the need to take responsibility for themselves. "My worry is that after a decade of a Labour government [that said, 'The state is always the answer, your government the answer'], they actually created the irresponsible society."

Increasing numbers attribute Britain's lapses into civility to the misapplication of welfare and the disincentives to taking responsibility that this causes. Despite overwhelming evidence of the benefits, social and economic, of marriage to society, Gordon Brown in one of his first acts as chancellor abolished the married couples allowance, which gave tax breaks to a husband and wife who stayed together. A Conservative party policy paper last year revealed that three-quarters of family breakdowns affecting young children now involve unmarried parents, and that cohabiting parents were more than twice as likely to break up than married couples. Government figures show that by next year the UK will have 1.6 million cohabiting couples. Over the past 10 years the proportion of children born outside marriage has risen from 12 per cent to 42 per cent.

Labour's slightly complicated tax credit system, born partly from a need to reduce child poverty, could welfare benefits for lone parents far more generous and, perversely, rendered a poor family headed by a single parent better off than a poor family headed by a couple. An ex-work couple with children would thus be better off by between 27 and 35 per cent if they broke up, and a couple earning minimum wage with children would see their income rise by 12 per cent if the father moved out.

British leads Europe—and most of the world—in terms of single-parent households. Commissioners and politicians are increasingly looking to the fact that the country often the most generous benefits in Europe to these lone households. They will not be president Clinton's success in reducing cohabiting pregnancy rates and lone parent households by changing welfare conditions. In Sweden, a single parent begins to lose

state support if he or she is not an employee by the time the first child is three. In Britain, the government is only now taking soundings on the possibility of doing the same thing when a child reaches 12.

Whatever the case, those couples who do take responsibility to provide for themselves are forced to work to meet the bills, and many children may see their parents. Government has played millions into child care facilities without considering the benefits of manipulating the tax system to allow one parent to remain at home. The new plan to keep state schools open for 50 hours a week, so that parents who want into the profession to teach themselves have transformed into social welfare and marriage points.

As a means of targeting the poor and encouraging the low-paid into employment, Gordon Brown shares tax allowances, whereby the individual is allowed to retain more of his earnings at source, in favour of tax credits where income is taxed and returned after means testing. The message is clear: wealth correlates with the taxes, who, arguably, is better able to make decisions about their personal financial circumstances. Wealth-related benefits like the first, which was itself up to the state and affairs of institutions.

Economists and think tanks contend that it is hardly surprising that so many at the bottom end of the income scale opt for welfare instead of employment. Brown's plan has increased National Insurance contributions (a levy designed to help fund the NHS) and allowed the personal income tax allowance to shrink as income rises, so that the poor who pay the largest share of their income in direct taxation. A minimum wage worker in the UK, after the first 34 hours' work per week, pays over 10 per cent more in tax than he or she does in the rest of the year.

The social dynamics of marriage, home and family as the lowest end of the income scale are thus governed by the principle of self-interest, as experts say. "The lowest and most vulnerable people in British society are the working class men with children who cling to self-provision when it will be easier to get on the state aid," and David Smith at the Institute of Economic Affairs. "If you look after your children and stay with your partner, you are poor and the state does not care. If you leave home the state takes over your family and you, alone again, are richer."

By and pose, alone again, are richer?"

In France and other European countries, child-rearing is rewarded by a reduction in the tax burden. In Britain, poor families are encouraged to make their own decisions to support, and children of broken unions seem more likely to delinquency and social exclusion. Government is doing everything it can to keep growing numbers of Britain's youth from becoming a feedback. It has begun to force young people out to training to stay in school until they are 18, but far more, this is that single mother after the house has been sold.

## London has a higher violent crime rate than any city in the EU, and higher than Istanbul or New York City

The Conservatives say it is the decline of the family unit, the fiscal and practical challenges to good parenting, poor education and the many other, that at the cost of so many of Britain's social and cultural problems. It remains to be seen whether the Conservatives, when in power, will make the difficult decisions they need to make the current government of governing.

UEF Director, at 94 a national union who still runs a column for the London Daily Telegraph, has been inspired on public life for 70 years. Said to be the inspiration behind the National and British Royal in Evelyn Wynn's Royal, Lord Deedes has been an MP, a minister, a newspaper editor, a soldier and army commander to the Queen.

"I have never known a time when poverty was not entrenched more control over every aspect of our lives," he says, pointing to the sheer size of the state and the terms it has made as "personal liberty, fiscal responsibility and personal responsibility."

"We are, therefore, on the verge of a personal change in the national character. It is very hard."

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tion in many aspects of its citizens' affairs.

For instance, the Home Office, which has duties on immigration and security, has put more than 3,000 new officers on the streets since 1997—on routes from downtown without trial to the corner use of capitalism in its. Although of low-levels of police control, from religious based legislation to a national identity card scheme. Little more are used as evidence of hate literature at international rights rallies. Catholic children's agencies are required to guide their children with gay couples, and protesters banned in the vicinity of Parliament.

But it is Delany's policies, based above, of a "population increasingly unable to distinguish the trivial from the important," that is causing commentators, politicians and members of Middle England concern.

A few weeks ago, for instance, a mother, a grandmother and two sons of a pair of toddlers were spared jail for fighting a fight between the children in which they were goaded to viciously assault each other. On the same day, a man was sent to jail for four months for dogfighting. Similar incidents can be everywhere increasingly apparent. They have recently announced a split to pro-

## Politicians now blame a decline in marriage and family for social problems like ill health and promiscuity

And it is young people who are causing the most concern. Recent statistics showed, for instance, that at least one child aged five and under is expelled from school every second year more excluded for offences ranging from fighting to sexual assault to drug taking. Increasingly, but belatedly, politicians are beginning to identify the decline of marriage and the family as the major cause of this and other social problems including ill health, crime, European promiscuity and welfare dependency. David Cameron, the leader of the Conservative party, took his first public statement on this publicly with:

being enabled by the forces of political correctness. He points out that every government since 1945 has tried to do this. The government shows that families bound together by marriage are happier, healthier and wealthier, and he is planning to alter the tax system to provide incentives for marriage, fidelity within marriage, and child support.

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**GREECE: THE REAL LESSON OF SPARTA**  
The recent movie 300, about a siege of doomed Spartans, has caught modern-day Sparta's tourism industry short of audience. With the tourist season beginning, vendors are unprepared for surging demand for Spartan-style souvenir weaponry. Greek deputy defense minister Petros Daskalakis, a Spartan, puts it this way: "The reason of the movie is right for your country, even if it's a losing battle, and have enough details on hand for tourists."



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gives your hair a full and lively, healthy, refreshing look. It's the new Dove Pro-Age hair care.

dove pro-age. beauty has no age limit.



new dove pro-age hair

## Consumer beware if it's made in China

**BY CHARLIE GILLIS** • Never let it be said that Beijing is ineffective. With the safety of the country's exports in question, China's criminal court sentenced the former head of the state food and drug agency to death this week, sending a rare two-table message to those who would compromise consumer well-being to fill their pockets.

Zheng Nixue was found guilty of accepting nearly \$11 million worth of bribes to expedite the approval of new drugs, and subjected to a wave of headlines in the state-run media. But this equivalent of a public scolding may



**TAINTED TOOTHPASTE:** China's culture of corruption

be too little, too late. Foreign toys stuffed with garbage to mislead food safety gluttons, recent consumer scandals have exposed a pervasive culture of expediency and corruption in China—especially in its poorly regulated manufacturing and food processing sectors. Even as Zheng received his sentence, results of a government-run investigation revealed that 10 percent of Chinese-made toys and baby clothes had failed safety tests, while certain baby milk powder contained potentially harmful chemicals.

In short, Zheng looks increasingly like a scapegoat. "He has ignored the vital interest of the people by taking bribes," the Xinhua news agency quoted the court as saying. But the disgraced official was arrested fully two years ago—early enough to be associated with a batch of state-approved antibiotics that killed 10 patients, yet long before the recent spate of disasters. And the embassies are keeping quiet. Hard on the back of the wheat gluten contamination that poisoned thousands of North American pet owners in the U.S., Australia, Panama and the Dominican Republic, millions of babies of Chinese-made toothpaste that contained a chemical used in explosives, coal fires. Such reckless disregard comes out for every, all rights. But if the punishment in any instance is death, then the executioner's song may soon be China's most heard tune. ■

## An unlikely champion of the rule of law

**BY LISA CH. RAYGAS** • John Ashcroft didn't make the best first impression. As an isolated meeting, the then U.S. attorney general perceived a gift of Canadian art with what appeared to be a dime-store caricature of Lady Liberty. The desecrated Pierre's oval layman also stunned Canadian officials by locking off meetings with protesters in Jesus, just as he did at the U.S. Justice Department, where he also spent thousands of taxpayer dollars covering up a bare-breasted statue. A former Missouri senator, Ashcroft was best known for championing the Patriot Act and other policies critical of civil liberties and legal rights of foreigners. But like his father, Ashcroft's reputation is now being shaken.

In testimony earlier this month, the former No. 2 at the Justice Department, Jim Comey, described how in March 2006, when Ashcroft lay critically ill and semi-comatose in a hospital bed, then-White House counsel Alberto Gonzales and chief of staff Andrew Card came in to press him to re-authorize a racist surveillance and spying program that he had rejected after department lawyers had concluded it was illegal. "Knowing himself, Ashcroft refused, and apparently threatened to resign when Bush reissued the program anyway. His last offer Bush's men elected."

Just Comey's own money, negative and applause have come from across the political spectrum. Liberal Democratic Senator Russ Feingold praised Ashcroft's "respect for the rule of law." Anonymous officials have also



**ASHCROFT: Even critically ill, he wouldn't back illegal wiretaps**

linked tales of battles inside the administration which Ashcroft fought long and hard for. For his part, Ashcroft has stayed quiet. His new position as Deputy Law School, a school founded by the late Justice for the law, which has enrolled graduates into Bush's Justice Department. The title of a recent course: Human Rights, Civil Liberties, and National Security. ■

## New profiling technique smells bad

**BY PATRICIA THORNE** • At least five German left wing activists were surprised in recent weeks when they questioned knacks at the door. Instead of being questioned about



**GERMANY'S Zypfel: Secret profiles revive bad memories**

a series of firebombing attacks of the G8 summit in Berlin, they were asked to hold open metal tubes in their film for a few minutes. The tubes, containing their "accident profiles," were then sealed shut, and the officials left. But the German public was outraged at the government's behavior, and even Justice Minister Brigitte Zypfel acknowledged that taking the samples left a "terribly negative aftertaste." The reason for such harm over a seemingly innocuous request—legally remote from different than fingerprints—can be traced back to the days of the Second World War. Germany's secret police, starting in the 1930s, conducted spots on secretly collected fingerprints of thousands of German citizens from dissidents and critics so dogs could track down opponents of the state's economy.

Germany's return to raising public anger with plans that would allow Communist practices. In mid-May, the Czech Republic proposed establishing online police networks, but quickly backed the idea until compliance that the units would be kept as a new version of the powerful secret, civilian security units of the Communist party network. "These police networks pervade half of the cities," explained Jan Rind, a former dissident. "This concentration and recovery is not a nice one."

Germany's justice minister defended the secret sample, reportedly used in an attempt to track up articles from a letter claiming responsibility for recent arson attacks, and stated they were "not used preventatively or to monitor other someone." But Wolfgang Thierse, a social democratic politician in the ruling coalition, is worried about the government's motives. "It's had enough that we have to put up with a long mental security fence around Berlin. Germany must not retreat from the Berlin Wall. But now we've got to guard against a hysteria that could lead us to use police methods like they used in East Germany." ■



**BIG CAFE:** Owned by two Chinese Canadians, the chain of cybercafés is booming, like a controlling family has jumped on board.

# REPRESSION TO RICHES

**Here's how to make a buck in China without bucking the authorities**

**BY ANDREA HANDEL-CAMPBELL** • It's a typical cybercafé scene: rows of video games, hand-held controllers of glowing computer screens. One fabled facet loomed in a dim blue glow. And you? Big Cuck, the ultra-modern Internet hot spot on Shing's Bay's bustling west side, is just next to your very own teeny Canada. For starters, it's big like Glenside here. Its sprawling 15,000-sq.-foot space, located on the third floor of an upscale shopping centre, can seat 180 patrons at one go. It's more like a supercharged amusement complex for adults, you have to be 18 years old and buy a membership card that not only allows you to log on, but also tracks all of what games you play, what you buy and where you wander on the Web.

Big Cat's distinctive model is arguably what has allowed its founders—Ivan Gao and David Liao—two Chinese-Canadian entrepreneurs, to succeed where Internet giants like Google and Yahoo! have hit the proverbial Chinese wall. In sharp contrast to other foreign providers, Big Cat is spreading the word, with plans to expand from 1,000 outlets currently under its brand.

to 3,000 by year-end. [They own some 13,000 Internet cafes in China, the bulk from recent acquisitions, operating under a tie franchise.] The franchise has just seen up US\$12 million in financing from international investors, and has signed a joint venture with Eric's Cybernet Media, whose high-net-worth investors include former executives with Universal Studios and Seidler's Kangaroo family, who control DGA.

But that's not all that this Big Cable spin is about. Unlike Google, which dreams of having reluctantly co-opted with Chinese government censors only to regret it later, Big Cable's Canadian overt to make no apologies for working hard to play with a state apparatus that has been described by Western watchdogs as "the most pervasive, sophisticated and effective" system of Internet surveillance and flaming in the world. "We are the government's loudest of debaters," admits Judith David '06, Big Cable's biggest cheerleader (she's now vice president of the company's close call abortion with

businessmen and police to block pornographic and politically taboo websites from making their way onto computer screens. "What ever the government deems unlawful, we try to make sure [our clients] don't get it." If a client is found on a prohibited website—and it's almost always pornography, Ho says—they are told to get off it, and always comply. "People tend to do what they are told," he says.

With Big Cade franchises doubling as merchandise platforms, selling Coca Cola and iPods to China's brand-hungry youth, Ho's pragmatic approach reflects that taken by many Taiwanese eager to access the boom market. More than that, it reveals a hard-

CLIENTS ordered off taking sides 'in what they are told



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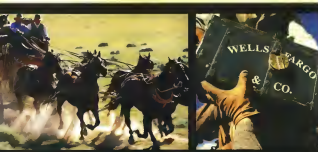
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mental discourse among China watchers over how the Middle Kingdom is managing its spectacular transformation and how, as a result, Westerners should engage the rising superpower. The Chinese government has itself been swept up in this debate as Prime Minister Wen Jiabao, in marked contrast to his liberal predecessors, has unambiguously denounced Chinese human rights violations, restraining tension between the two countries and putting October on a collision course with Beijing.

For rights activists, China's treatment of the Internet is particularly concerning. President Hu Jintao has made no secret of his desire to control the supposedly unruly Web, recently telling the government to "guard" the Internet, which he said should be used to "foster sports and moral rounds." According to Communist Party officials, the Internet could become a serious challenge to its monopoly on power, so far as

it goes. Unless you're living in China, you wouldn't understand. "It's a feeling one comes across often in China and has led many Chinese to consider Westerners as somewhat hypocritical in their unreserved, broad-brush judgments. As Howard Delbert, Canada's former ambassador to China, points out, "Personal freedoms have never been greater in the history of China. Period. Full stop. The erosion of political rights comes slowly—undoubtedly too slowly—but things are moving in the right direction."

Delbert (Delbert has never been to China, but he sees what happens to cyber dissidents who try to buck the system). Director of the Center for a New American Century, a think tank that promotes worldwide Internet freedom, Delbert tells Chinese bloggers get around the muzzles of firewalls, filters and blocked domains. From what he can tell, Chinese Internet censorship is getting worse, not better. "Social stability may be a value the

need to consider live discussion among them? It's a big lie."

Others, however, are less prone to read about the ethics of Western companies like Big Caffe. As Delbert points out, Chinese censorship is also much less comprehensive than many realize, relying on filters that are prone to error and easy to get around. With 137 million Internet users and tens of millions more going online each year, Chinese suffers little able to access an unprecedented amount of information, navigating new avenues of critical and creative thinking. And foreign Internet providers are key to making sure things stay that way, says Sun Pao-Wen, president of the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada. "Local companies would operate in such a ham-fisted, detrimental way compared to a company unaffiliated in Western values," he argues. "It's better to be an influence for the good, even if it's compromised. You have to keep your eye on the bigger picture."

### 'I HEARD THE SAME ARGUMENT IN STALINIST RUSSIA,' ONE CRITIC SAYS



FOUNDERS David Ho (left) and Tina Qian: For China, social stability is the 'next priority.'

domestic service providers, including Yahoo!, hand over email account data that has led to the imprisonment of "cyber dissidents."

That has raised hackles among many in the West, but to Ho, who was born in Hong Kong and immigrated to Vancouver as a child, China should be congratulated for how far it's come since the dark days of the Cultural Revolution. "Without to work within the parameters of what the government allows," he explains. "Unfortunately, those parameters may not be too logical to people not living in China, but after living here for 10 years, you realize that China is a very large country and social stability is the first priority."

"The Chinese government has done a very good job," he adds. "It's difficult to criticize unless you're actually living in that environment. I don't see a lot of people complain

Chinese much more highly, but there's no much dissent, such a lack of transparency, and the methods they use against those who step outside the boundaries are extreme," he says. Ho's defense is "morally objectionable," he argues. "I heard the same argument in Stalinist Russia. You can apologize for all sorts of things where you are making money."

Social stability is definitely a priority in China, with some 80,000 people registered last year alone. But according to Bruce Gilley, assistant professor of sociology at Queen's University, censorship actually hinders conflict rather than preventing it. "Instability in large countries is caused by a lack of open media," he says. "If the government truly believed it was acting in the interests of the Chinese people, why would it

Google is a case in point. While so much rage against Chinese language search engines causes politically sensitive criticism to Taiwan and Tibet, Google's translation technology allows Chinese surfers to access otherwise inaccessible English language Web pages to Chinese. "Technology is, by definition, revolutionary and it has been controlled," says Mironidis, director of the China program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington. "I would say let the government try to control the Internet and let's see who wins."

Big Caffe definitely seems to be winning. With more than a million Chinese visiting Internet cafes daily—a number that is growing by 30 per cent every six months—each Big Caffe franchise enjoys a profit margin of some 40 to 50 per cent. They average about 30,000 active members per franchise, with clients paying both for their card and a per hour usage fee. But beyond money, Ho believes it's doing the right thing. Before Big Caffe came along, cybercafés had something of a notorious image in China. They were usually underground and kids would go to school to play video games in often smoky facilities. A number of cafes have shut down as a result, leaving hundreds of children. "The only difference we can make is improving things, and going against the government isn't a smart thing," says Ho, who attributes his ability to appreciate other perspectives and cultures to his Canadian upbringing. "It helped us go with the flow, respect the law and integrate with the Chinese way of doing things." ■

Andrew Stewart Campbell was awarded a media fellowship by the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada to travel in China.



ROBON was top among Canada's big bank execs last year with \$12.8 million in earnings

## THEY EARN WHAT?!

**Top bankers—already among Canada's best paid—are getting richer**

**BY COLIN CAMPBELL** • William Dowse's first few months on the job as the CEO of the Bank of Montreal have hardly been gentle ones. Sure, he's top dog at one of the country's most respected private companies, but Dowse is now in the unenviable position of explaining how the bank lost \$650 million on questionable natural gas trades in the United States. He may also soon find himself answering why his predecessor and former boss, Tony Comper (Canada's third-highest paid banker last year), was able to walk away before the situation came to light with a retirement package worth \$105 million.

At least Dowse has a significant pay package to ease the pain. Though his details won't be known until BMO's next proxy circular, Canada's top bankers are among the best paid executives in the country, and getting richer: After a decline in 2005, pay for top bank executives rose on the rise again last year, fuelled by whopping stock options and bonuses that have CEOs riding far beyond the pay of those just one rung down the corporate ladder. As surely as lions roar, big profits (as BMO did on its second quarter), top pay executives, despite any managerial blunders (like CIBC's bet on Enron, or the Royal Bank of Canada's

troubles in the U.S. mortgage business), will always be handsomely rewarded.

No banker in Canada is paid better than the Royal Bank's Gordon Ross, who took home \$12,882,924 in total compensation last year, according to the bank's management proxy. And with other bank heads, Ross's base pay was relatively small, at \$1.1 million. The bulk of this earnings came as bonuses, including a handsome \$5 million bonus (50 per cent increase from the year before), and perks, like \$17,593

**"I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT A FAT CAT DOESN'T WORK AS HARD AS A LEAN ONE," SAYS ONE CRITIC**

for lost issues. Ross was the only banker whose pay jumped significantly in both of the first two years (25 per cent last year alone).

Nor was he closely followed by Toronto Dominion's Bank of Montreal CEO, who made \$11,997,898 in 2006 (a decline from his 2004 pay, but a slight increase from 2005). BMO's Tony Comper made \$9,633,471, and the Bank of Nova Scotia's Richard Waugh \$9,457,690. At the bottom of the list is CIBC's Gerald McLaughlin, who earned \$2,349,647 in 2005 (the most recent data available). "This was a dramatic shift from his predecessor, John Haskin, who left the bank in 2001 after one of the fourth highest paid executives in the country, but with a retirement package worth \$15 million, a note the bank never putting heavy

losses stemming from its Enron dealings. Banks say executive pay levels are carefully based on company performance. Indeed, the Royal has used healthy profits under Ross in response to shareholder concerns, banks have also been dodging more about how pay is determined. But shareholder activists say the pay packages are still too generous. "These people are just managers. They didn't mortgage their houses to start the bank. They just walked up through a bureaucracy," says Robert Verdon, a shareholder activist and senior critic of the bank's compensation process. (Ed Clark, who joined TD in 2006, is an exception, adds Verdon.) There is also no clear connection between pay and performance, says shareholder activist Stephen Jurewicz. "I can assure you that a fat cat doesn't work as hard as a lean one," he says.

Concerns about executive largesse have not reached the levels seen in the United States, where in one former Home Depot CEO Robert Nardelli was given a US\$216 million severance package. Even among bank shareholders, criticism has been muted and isn't likely to grow, says Debra Siro, director of research for Institutional Shareholder Services Canada. Canada's banks are insulated from shareholder revolt thanks to their ongoing profitability, adds Siro. Most investors just assume that the highly profitable banks will always pay executives hefty salaries. "People are so used to thinking that these guys are glorified baseball players," says Jurewicz.

Where there is a growing concern is with executive pension plans, which like stock options and bonuses are becoming a big part of pay packages. When the Royal's Ross retired, he'll be paid about \$1.7 million a year (and \$2.1 million in severance should he be forced from the job). These plans

leave executives with huge liabilities—for Clark's pension at TD, for example, it's over \$27 million.

To executives' pay packages really added to justify when compared to other executives at the company, including likely successors. Ross was paid about \$18 million more than chief operating officer Barbara Byrnes, who made \$4.9 million last year, and \$20 million more than the bank's chief financial officer, Justin Tulacz, who made \$7.7 million. BMO's Comper made \$1.5 million more than former CEO (and now CEO) Dowse, who made \$8.1 million last year.

Banks note that their gauge compensation is part of what other bankers in Canada and the U.S. get paid—a reasonable sounding argument, maybe, but also one guaranteeing that when one executive's pay begins to rise, as Ross's has, the others will surely follow. ■

# The little bank that could—maybe

**HSBC is the only foreign bank still fighting for business on main street**

**BY COLIN CAMPBELL** • When he first started introducing ATM networks into four years ago, critics once saw there to be little more than yet another money-making bank. But Vancouver-based HSBC Bank Canada, however, they represented a sweet harvest to its goal of expanding beyond its Vancouver base. Suddenly,

the big banks with the biggest networks had yet another distinct advantage over others. "It became quite clear that if we were to build our retail network we needed to have broader ATM access," says HSBC Canada's president Lesley Gordon. The solution was to build with the Bank of Montreal and, complained last year, allowing customers to use BMO machines to withdraw cash and make deposits with out any charge. Both are the lengths to which a foreign bank tried to get into the retail world of Canadian banking.

At a time when other foreign banks have picked up all but their last remaining addresses and gone home, British-owned HSBC is the only one still fighting for a share of the Canadian market by opening new branches. In an industry that operates as an oligopoly, dominated by five banks (RBC, TD, Scotia, CIBC, and BMO) that collectively guard their turf, it's no simple task.

With US\$1.8 trillion in assets, HSBC's parent company is the third largest public company in the world—bigger than all the Canadian banks combined. Yet for all its global heft, HSBC is a fourth tier player in Canada. From Gordon's low key about his bank's chances to move in the nation. "Can we move beyond money source? That's not a goal in itself," says Gordon. "We certainly have ambitions to grow but the reality is that in the Canadian marketplace it's not there are relatively few acquisition opportunities."

Foreign ownership rules prevent outside companies like HSBC from buying a controlling stake in a Canadian bank. The only way into the market is to start from scratch with the big banks for real pressure—something that would be extremely expensive, not to mention foolhardy, say analysts. Status quo of the Canadian banks' business model, and they're likely to stay that way, especially as they've started to reverse a trend that had them closing branches over the past years. "The challenge is with trying to pick up your



THE BANK has boosted its retail and commercial business

retail is that every bank is focused on retail," says Marc Mendelson, an analyst with Genuity Capital Markets. HSBC has about 150 branches compared to the big banks, which have close to 1,000. "These branches help create other business like mutual funds and the mortgage business," says Oded Leshem, an investment analyst with Veritas

Investment Research. "The banks have such a stronghold they are largely unbeatable." HSBC has been (and slowly) boosting its retail and commercial business, including its important investment banking and private equity arms, focusing on growth cities like Calgary and Toronto (where it plans to go from over 30 branches to more than 100). Rather than offer discounted rates, HSBC is also leveraging its reputation as a big international player. The bank got its foot in Canada in the mid-1950s serving immigrants from Hong Kong, and as the largest foreign bank in China it still appeals to those with connections to Asian markets as well as companies operating internationally. HSBC has also worked to market itself outside Toronto, most recently by sponsoring the Toronto Blue Jays. Gordon brushes aside the claim that HSBC isn't a real contender. "We already think we're a real challenger and that's how we position HSBC as a brand."

Still, the question remains why HSBC, of all banks in Canada, is the one to crack the top five. The answer, say analysts, is that they are still making money. "There's a lot of very core hard-core business," says Leshem. The bank isn't only a comfortable and secure serving internationally mobile clients, but a profitable one. "On a relative basis the domestic market in Canada has attractive features. It's a world-class city's high growth but it's not as growthy," says Leshem, an analyst at Blackstone Capital.

There's also the real possibility that merges could one day shift the banking landscape, forcing the rest of the market to buy the HSBC. Past governments have rejected mergers, but "it's not a foregone conclusion that they will not be controlled," says Gordon. "We always seem to have an opportunity that a threat, particularly not trying to position ourselves as the leading alternative to the large banks," he adds. "To us the business strategy, we'll have our cashiers' next sign on the way."

For all HSBC's efforts, the big five banks aren't yet looking over their shoulders in fear, say analysts. But HSBC can't go any further as it deals with BMO's grip on the street largest ATM network in the country. If the recent debate over ATM fees is any measure of Canada's fight with the big five, there's still plenty of room to grow, even for a foreign bank based in Lotus Land. ■



**PLAIN-SPEAKING DOCTOR LANDS IN TROUBLE**  
Aristo Koves of Colorado had complained officially about a local emergency room doctor, Yadvendra Sood, for issuing inappropriate discharge instructions. "He was treated in hospital last year after falling out of a wheelchair while standing up. Hospital records indicated Sood was 'actively infirmed' at the time and Sood's obstetric discharge advice could have put his life at risk and left causing harm to your health as a patient."







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PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK/ERIC



# TAKE YOUR HEALTH

**BY ALEXANDRA SHIMO** • In May 2006, Morosini launched the country's first ever national push to medical care, focusing on serious patients could buy. As we put the package together, we were astonished to discover just how many of these options were available. Private health care, once considered a luxury, had gone from providing after-hours MRIs to offering complex and lengthy surgeries.

Since last year, we have broadened the guide, adding new comparisons of the developments on the Canadian health care landscape. In the course of that year's research, we discovered a rift of new services that passed below the media's radar. *GapWorld*, a medical travel company, for instance, has started offering wait-time insurance. Quoted for more than 15 days for a procedure, and the insurer will pay for you to have private treatment either in Canada or in the United States (see page 47). *Chenix* was another service we heard about as we interviewed medical experts across the country. Chenix offers a different insurance based on the patient's chronicity, analyzing a patient's own tumor cells in the laboratory to identify which medication will work best (see page 52).

A relatively new field, one that is on the cutting edge of science, is pharmacogenetics. It turns out that people metabolize drugs at different rates, which can lead to a bad reaction to prescription drugs. Canadian researchers have their DNA tested at a couple of executive wellness clinics.

Why so many new services? There are a

number of reasons, says Ilana Day, president of the Canadian Medical Association. Baby boomers are just hitting their senior years. Many of them want different types of care, more convenience, more privacy. Rather than using more time on one long holiday, many want to be as active as they were in their twenties and thirties, he says. They are much more proactive about their health than their parents. Medical technology rapidly

## WAIT TIMES TO BE SEEN IN ER



**CANADA RANKS WORST** Based on patients' estimates, wait times are longer here than in Britain, Australia and the United States.

evolving, and baby boomers have the mind-set and money to want to use their tools to improve their health and well-being.

Some of the new services address gaps in public health care. When it comes to emergency rooms (based on patients' estimates), we are longer in Canada than in Britain, Australia, New Zealand, Germany and the United States, according to a 2007 international

study published in the journal *Health Affairs*. The Urgent Care facility at Falmouth Creek Hospital means the major emergencies of people who don't want to wait several hours to be seen, and who can afford the clinic's fees (see page 43).

Another growth area is niche family doctors. Currently 3.9 million Canadians don't have a GP. This makes it more difficult to tackle chronic illness and infectious diseases and disease prevention, says Lisa Rowman, vice chair of the Health Council of Canada. According to OECD statistics, Canada has one of the lowest percentages of doctor per one million people in the developed world. We're below Australia, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Italy and the U.K. out of 15. The crisis is tied to the Ontario Medical Association's November 2006 report referred to family medicine as a "dying specialty" in need of "urgent renaissance."

While family doctors are in short supply, many of the executive health clinics are expanding, partly because they offer long, unhurried appointments with GPs once you have completed an exhaustive menu of pre-visit tests. At Toronto-based Medica, a national executive health provider, members receive 24/7 access to a doctor and assistance accessing specialists in Canada and the United States.

Most of these private clinics use electronic medical records to coordinate, develop relations in the public system and use a health Canada memo among the two most underfunded countries in the world for the compensation of health jobs, according to several recent studies.

The situation is so bad that Terry Foll, chairman of RBC Capital Markets, quit the board of Toronto's health authority in his resignation in April. In his letter of resignation, he wrote, "I was disappointed because the only way out of Canada's health care mess was through a major up from investment in a health system." Moving into the electronic age, he told Morosini, "would save billions of dollars in the long run, cut wait times, avoid duplication, and cut medical errors."

By contrast, companies like Medcor, a client-care management group, place the compensation of a patient's medical staff under the same care as the patient's care. It collects all the relevant information from a patient's various doctors and hospitals and stores it on a PDA so physicians working in the public system can deliver better care.

Another growing trend is offering to specific demographics. The executive wellness provider Sciens Health takes its packages to baby boomers. The Mom and Baby Dept. in Whittier, Calif., focuses its care on mothers and their kids. An annual membership fee means one-hour appointments with a pediatric nurse, lengthy family doctor appointments and 24-hour telephonic access to a GP. Courses and counselling—everything from breastfeeding to baby behavior management—are covered. Currently, only women and children have access to the full range of services. Clients have asked the center to expand, and it is currently trying to recruit a GP to look after fathers, too.

The growth of these clinics, which patients pay for a portion or all of the service, are part of the evolving Canadian health care landscape. Your Complete Guide to Better Medical Care 2007 is the only national survey explaining what is happening, and how it could affect you. We thought our readers should know all the medical options on offer.



## EMERGENCY CARE No more eight-hour waits

In September 2006, the Canadian Institute for Health Information released a report that spelled the beginning of Vancouver's new medical care. Baby Doc, after surveying emergency rooms nationwide, the center found that more than half of emergency room visits were for non-urgent or less-urgent cases. In other words, a lot of people didn't really need to be there, Godley says.

The U.S. doctor doesn't wonder whether there was some other way to test these less urgent cases. And in December 2006, that thinking resulted in a new medical service, the Urgent Care facility at the Falmouth Creek Hospital. With its on-site, urgent care, lab, cancer infusion treatment (chemotherapy), and a battery of diagnostic equipment, the sprawling private hospital would be less than an hour's drive from

With the media attention came controversy. A month after its splashy opening, it had closed its doors to the Canadian public. For the past eight years, Godley had run the Falmouth Creek Hospital, but adding an emergency room was a step too far for the B.C. government. It brought in investigators, and told the clinic to either shut down or stop charging patients.

Two months later, in March 2007, Godley reopened his controversial private clinic. By hiring emergency room doctors who have never worked in British Columbia, he has found a loophole through which he can charge patients for medical services. He says, "I opened this emergency room to take some load off the public system," says Godley on a break from surgery. "That's part of the reason. But I also really believe that the system would improve if we introduced an element of competition."

**WAIT TIME**  
Less than an hour

**HOW MUCH?**

- (Patients are charged an initial diagnostic fee of \$200 for each visit.)
- Franchise: \$190 to \$225
- Doctors: \$330
- Complex procedures: \$250
- Abuse charges: \$225
- Nasal packing/unplugged: \$195
- Mental health services: \$175
- Foreign body removal (in place of wound in your foot, for example): \$200
- Dermis: \$30
- Ultrasound: \$99
- Echocardiogram: \$520
- Some-day specialist referral: \$1,250

—Alexandra Shimo

**SODLEY'S RH** In Vancouver, private facilities offer urgent care.



## ALL your shots in one quick spot

Planning a quick getaway to the Caribbean? The last thing you want is another item on your to-do list, let alone one that involves getting shots. Besides, you're headed to a warm destination, and you're only going for a week. No need to see a doctor, right? You wouldn't be the only vacationer to think this way. More than 90 per cent of travellers don't seek any type of health advice prior to departure. Mr. Dr. Jay Keynote of the Toronto General Hospital's tropical medicine clinic says travel doctors is both a useful and unnecessary ruse, even at popular beach resorts. In countries like Haiti, Cuba and the Dominican Republic, up to 10 per cent of visitors contract meningitis or E. coli, bacteria that causes traveler's diarrhea. In fact, "Morosini's coverage" is the most common vaccine preventable infection among travellers. The second is influenza.

Keynote is also director of the Medways Travel Clinic in Toronto, one of more than 50 private vaccination clinics in the city. Over the last decade, most provinces have defunded travel health, the logic being if you are off to travel, you can afford to pay for the advice in U.S. family doctors (in the public health system are required to bill patients for any travel health consultation, and that's on top of fees for vaccines). What's more, many GPs don't stock most vaccines such as Japanese encephalitis (for travel to some Asian countries) or yellow fever (for which there are strict refrigeration requirements). It's all tied to a gradual shift in travel-health expertise from the public domain to private clinics like Medcor, several of which employ tropical medicine experts like Keynote. A typical consult takes involves a thorough review of the travel itinerary, a medical history, and a discussion about vaccines and health precautions (anything from how to get your pet to where in the world sexual activity is riskier). Then a nurse comes in with a syringe.

On a recent business trip to China, David Jensen, CEO of a design consulting firm in Vancouver, followed the advice he got at Travel Medicine and Vaccination Centre and SciensHealth, the anti-diarrhea vaccine, before leaving. (If needed, you can find child-friendly versions, but Jensen-Dickson is administered orally, in the form of a fizzy drink.)

"Every day was going to be full of meetings and travel, so I didn't want anything like drug sales to build me up, because that would have been disastrous," says Jones, 41. The money he spent, about \$200 altogether, brought him quick success and peace of mind. "These places keep making my shoes, so I know what I need and what I have had," he says.

In that vein, Keynote says Harely place to start is with the standards by which doctors use medical information. "Doctors tend to fall through the cracks," he says. "They need chronic, diabetes, polio. They need to know what you've done when they get older. There's a new wave [of change] where we're coming out soon. They need HPIV, they need hepatitis B." Many small clinics will then use a system that with the other vaccines they administer to themselves. Keynote thinks the doctors can go even further and serve a literal role in keeping track of patients' immunizations to make pleasant to family medicine. "The bottom line is that primary care doctors are to busy and overwhelmed doing what they do," he says. "They really aren't going to say, 'Have we updated this, have we updated that?'"

#### HOW MUCH?

Individual consultation \$40 to \$60  
Group or family of four \$190 to \$125  
Duke's \$75 to \$80  
Yellow Fever \$75 to \$90

—Dafni Dreyer



#### TRAVEL AGENTS

### New hot spots for surgery

The World Health Summit Congress, a three-day meeting of medical travel agents from around the world, was held in Cyprus this year. More than 60 countries were represented, and Canadian companies attended. Meetings featured champagne receptions, a ceremony of music and international cuisine, and Cyprus music and dancing. During the day, the entrepreneurs listened to presentations to help them decide which hot spots in less developed countries were good enough to visit Canadian patients.

A worldwide industry that once evoked more than curiosity about credibility now has the financial backing of many international governments—Singapore, Philippines, South Africa, Kuwait, Oman and the United Arab Emirates, to name a few. It also has its own credit rating by Moody's and is widely praised

colleagues—the International Medical Travel Association. None has documented the total number of persons travelling to get various advanced fields, but a recent survey says about 1.1 million go to Asia yearly.

Canada is no exception on the growth in medical tourism. Companies such as Mid-South, San Medical Group and Surgical Tourism have added new surgical centers, such as Mexico, Central America and the United Arab Emirates. Surgical Tourism has opened three new branches in Canada in the past two years, and four in Australia. New services not available in previous years arrived to India to provide a type of cancer care—intensity modulated radiotherapy (IMRT)—that is not widely available in Canada. Currently, Surgical Tourism has a clinic in Washington, D.C., in Chennai, India, receiving IMRT for advanced lung cancer.

Some medical travel agencies focus on specific locations. Thirdly Medical Alternatives and OneWorld Medicine send patients only to private hospitals in Canada and the United States. San Medical deals almost entirely with Malaysia. Other companies specialize in specific types of operations. Montreal-based GenePro, for example, does cosmetic, dental and fertility ops.

In need in the business, a medical travel agent must gain the trust of the person traveling. Patients seek comfort, comfort of diet, and confidence in the staff with designated surgeons are often part of the service. Agents usually include flights and a couple of weeks of accommodation. What is not included is a top operative time over the patient's nose. Follow-up and physio are the responsibility of the patient, although a good medical travel agent will help clients make the necessary arrangements.

#### HOW MUCH?

Sample price list for Indian hospitals:  
Prices include flights.  
Total costs replacement: \$13,500  
Hip resurfacing surgery: \$14,500  
Cancer treatment: \$40,000  
Tooth implants (single teeth): \$13,000 to \$18,000  
Facial: \$7,500 to \$8,000  
Breast enlargement: \$7,800 to \$8,000  
Sample price list for Canadian and U.S. private hospitals. Prices do not include travel costs.  
Total costs replacement: \$16,000  
Hip resurfacing surgery (done in U.S.): \$20,000 to \$25,000  
Artistic breast surgery: \$3,000 to \$5,000  
Facial: \$10,500  
Breast enlargement: \$8,000 to \$10,000

—A.S.

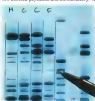


#### GENETIC TESTING

### A diet designed for your genes

Last year, the anti-Denmarkish Toronto eat its course, the drug company Roche, came under intense scrutiny. At least 94 Canadians had become ill after taking the medication, 10 had died, three within the past year. As drugs go, the coverage of each serious side effect was the exception, not the rule. Most of the cases, adverse drug reactions go unreported to such an extent that the latest U.S. study concluded that 6.7 per cent of patients don't react as they should to their medications. The Journal of the American Medical Association says that adverse drug reactions are the tenth largest cause of death in the United States.

Which begs the question: why are most people perfectly fine with Tamiflu, while a few become psychotic and hallucinatory? Is



DOCTORS TEST drugs against patients' DNA

depends on how your body breaks down the drug, which is determined by genetics. For many genes, the question is whether you metabolize the medication by analyzing your genetic makeup. Currently there are pharmacogenetic tests for 60 to 70 per cent of all drugs. Patients can be tested, the cholesterol-lowering drug Lipitor, says Dr. David, a genetic counselor at Midstate, a private clinic in Ontario.

Genetic counseling is another matter, says a pharmacist at a few private clinics. Patients work with a geneticist, poring over their family tree to determine who carries the gene for a disease. "These are the most at risk of developing. These are the ones who are at risk of developing. These are the ones who are at risk of developing. These are the ones who are at risk of developing."

change their lifestyle to help prevent the condition from developing.

Nutrigenetics is a new scientific field that analyzes a person's genetic make-up to determine how they metabolize various vitamins and food groups. Doctors use the science to tailor diet and vitamin supplement plans to a patient's DNA and specific disease risk. Some critics say this field is still in its infancy, currently only some health offices offer this service in Canada.

#### HOW MUCH?

Genetic counseling \$295 (genetic tests are extra, most are covered by medical)  
Pharmacogenetic tests \$300 and up (depending on the number of tests requested)  
Nutrigenetics and genetic counseling starts at \$750

—A.S.



#### OPEN MRI

### No-fear scans for claustrophobics

Twenty-two years ago, when the first MRI was introduced in Canada, it was hailed as the most reliable, stable, safe, physicians could laterally use without patient discomfort. Using a magnetic field and radio waves to send information from salt water in a container, everything from cancer to tennis elbow became easier to diagnose. But for many patients, the test turned out to be almost as scary as the disease. Then thought it may be aimed at a specific body part, conventional magnetic resonance imaging requires that a patient's whole body be inserted either head first or feet first into a narrow, noisy cylinder where, for as long as 45 minutes, he lies perfectly still while the machine does the scan.

For claustrophobics—estimated at 20 per cent according to the Canadian Association of Radiologists—the procedure is tortuous. And for anyone over 180 lb., or with very wide shoulders, it may be a physical impossibility. Conventional MRI machines have an opening that is just 55 cm wide, says CAR president Bob Miller, a radiologist in Halifax. "There's not a lot of room in there."

That's why, over the past several years, MRI machines made from here have been built on wheels, allowing, so-called open-hole MRIs, like the one offered at St. Charles in Lével, Que., and at Canadian Magnetic Imaging in Vancouver, for example, are wider



THE CALGARY clinic: Open MRI of Canada cuts the new technology wait time

and shorter and don't enclose the patient and shorten their openings are a much more open, they can accommodate those who weigh 450 lb. or more. But "open hole" is still a narrow," says Calgary radiologist Dr. Kevin Kram. "In MRI, the part of your body that is imaged has to be in the center of the magnet, period."

To that end, Kram thinks the clinic he co-founded in the city's Marlborough Mall is the best solution for both claustrophobics and large individuals. Open MRI of Canada (purchased last month by CHL Healthcare in Mississauga, Ont.) boasts what Kram calls "the first and only open hole open MRI machine in the country." It is a \$1.1 million machine, leased by Kram in late 2004, partly because it is less than half the cost of a patient's radiologist at the Alberta Children's Hospital. His machine was a compromise, he says, that patients can lie down on the table with their children while they are being scanned. For adults, such as Olympic gold medal hockey player Hayley Winderlich, the open MRI is like the difference between day and night. "Hayley had been in a tunnel magnet, but she thought that was so much better," Kram says. "She called it 'open' and aware. There is no fear at all."

His patients come from all over Canada, he says, "both because they are not afraid and because they can get an appointment faster." The Canadian Institute for Health Information reports that Canada has 164 MRI machines in hospitals and 14 in free-standing clinics, or 5.9 MRIs for every one million Canadians. They can be as expensive as clinics like Kram's—\$600 per area—against most times that vary from 30 to 177 days, and adding emergency.

In Melville, N.Y., an ambulance, a company called Foner, founded by MRI pioneer Dr. Raymond Dawkins, is marketing the replacement of MRI machines, the Upright. It lets people either stand or sit and watch TV while they are undergoing the scan. "In 2004, it allowed a top body to be scanned sitting on its mother's knee," says spokesman Art Brady. So far, one of the machines, which cost US\$1 million installed, has made its way to Canada.

In Halifax, CARS Miller thinks such open MRIs, CAPRI of the heart, don't produce the clearest images, but he is quick to add that in the 18 years he has been in business with one, says Miller, "Some of the things you can get in a modern MRI in the past few years in terms of the quality and the ease of use of this world." Locally, with open MRIs, the experience is even enjoyable.

HOW MUCH?  
Open MRI scans \$495 to \$825  
—Barbara Aghion

## Who knew?

In **70%** of cases genital herpes is transmitted when there are no visible signs or symptoms.\*

I'm very careful, and I always thought I was doing everything possible to protect my partner from genital herpes. But when I learned that I could be contagious even when I don't have symptoms, I was shocked.

I asked my doctor, and she explained that genital herpes is transmitted through something called viral shedding. Too small to be seen, viral shedding can happen anytime, anywhere from just below my waistline down to my upper thigh. Thanks to my doctor I now know that I can do more to reduce my risk of passing it on.

THERE ARE MORE WAYS TO REDUCE THE RISK OF TRANSMITTING GENITAL HERPES THAN YOU MAY REALIZE. ASK YOUR DOCTOR.

[www.gHWhoKnew.ca](http://www.gHWhoKnew.ca)

\*Based on a clinical study by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NH&MRC) in 1994. Genital herpes is a viral infection that can be transmitted even when there are no visible signs or symptoms. The study found that 70% of people with genital herpes transmitted the virus to their partners even when they had no visible signs or symptoms.



### WALK-TIME INSURANCE

## If you can't see a specialist fast...

It takes about 125 days\* to see a surgeon in Canada. That's the median length of time from your doctor's referral until you're actually lying on the gurney, waiting for the surgeon to start work. Of course, not everyone waits four months. For cancer patients, treatment takes median of 31 days. On the other hand, those in need of orthopaedic surgery fare much worse. The median wait for this specialty is 181 days—more than nine months.

With time insurance (called Medical Access Insurance) is a way of dodging your wait. Launched by OneWorld last year, it guarantees you won't spend more than 45 days waiting to see a specialist. If you have to wait longer, you are given the option of having private insurance in Canada or the United States. Medical costs up to \$1 million are covered. This insurance does not pay for the treatment of pre-existing conditions, at least within the first two years of buying it. Currently, the product is available only through employee insurance plans in Alberta, B.C. and Manitoba. OneWorld says it will expand to other provinces by the end of the year.

\*This wait time is from the year's release of "Waiting Your Turn: Hospital Waiting Lists in Canada," published by the Fraser Institute. They are longer than provincial wait lists, because they include wait times from first referral from GPs to the time of surgery. Provincial wait lists measure from the first consultation with a specialist to surgery.

### HOW MUCH?

Starts at \$75 a month for a family

—A. S.



### AUDIOLOGY

## Tiny hidden hearing aids

In Canada, it seems the act of having one's hearing tested and enhanced is fast becoming a strictly private affair. According to the Canadian Association of Speech-Language

Pathologists and Audiologists, the vast majority of roughly 1,200 practicing audiologists do so in a private setting.

As with eye care and dentistry, the services are simple enough: expensive technology and the opportunities available in the private sector for those graduating from the country's five university programs. "There aren't actually a lot of good public sector jobs available," says Dr. Louise Bennett of UBC's School of Audiology and Speech Sciences. "If audiologists really want to get into diagnosing hearing aids, it's easier to do that as a private practice."

Medicare coverage varies widely from province to province, but typically pregnant only partially cover hearing aids—if at all. In Ontario, for example, patients are eligible for up to \$500 per hearing aid, which typically cost upwards of \$1,000 apiece. Some private health insurance may cover the expense as well, though as with dentistry there is a wide range as to what and who is eligible. In most provinces, there are programs for veterans and members of First Nations.

New technology, also used in cellular phones and computers, has allowed hearing aids to shrink in size considerably. What are called "open fitting" hearing aids are among the newest and most popular advancements in the field. A thin, clear tube leads into the back of the ear and is connected to the ear bud, making it smaller and less prone to feedback and background noise. "They are more cosmetically appealing to people who wouldn't otherwise wear hearing aids," says Jensen.

Several clinics across the country have also begun using electrophysiological testing, which measures how the brain responds to sound without depending on a person's reaction.

**ROUGHLY 1,200 audiologists practice in private settings**



tion. It is particularly useful in a pediatric setting or where verbal commands may not be understood.

### HOW MUCH?

1. Auditory tests **\$30 to \$70** (some clinics offer the tests for free as an incentive to new customers)
  2. Hearing tests **\$40 to \$70**
- often Auditory Hearing Clinic in Vancouver offers Auditory Processing Assessments—a two-hour diagnostic of a patient's hearing acuity relative to learning and perceptual skills. It is a \$400 procedure.

—Marina Petrucci



### PROSTATE

## A special sort of microwave

The prostate is one of those organs you'll probably never think about, or need to think about, until it misbehaves. For older males, this is quite common—one in four men over 50 have symptoms such as slow flow or frequent urination, problems associated with an enlarged prostate.

When those symptoms become too irritating to ignore, the prostate can be surgically reduced or shrunk down to size using a special sort of microwave. A small antenna is inserted into the urethra that transmits microwave energy, heating the prostate and destroying excess tissue. After half an hour of warming, the treatment is finished, and the patient can go home, or back to work.

Compared to surgery, microwave treatment (TUMT) has a number of pros and cons. On the downside, it costs a lot of money and the patient must wear a catheter for five to seven days after the procedure, rather than a day or two, as with open surgery. On the other hand, TUMT removes the risk of impotence, which happens to about one in 10 patients who undergo the surgical procedure.

### HOW MUCH?

Tumour-free microwave therapy **\$4,000**

—A. S.



## FERTILITY CLINICS

## Turning back the biological clock

From the time she was 14, New Yorker Marina Shah began to feel her biological clock ticking. One day, she would worry she might be wasting her time with the wrong man. When she wasn't dating, she felt she should be out socializing and making time to meet the right man. And so, starting in September 2006, Shah started flying to Montreal every six months to gain a few years of fertility. Freezing her eggs at the McGill Reproductive

Centre came at a cost to the cell. At the McGill centre, the cells are frozen at 20,000° C per minute. At this speed, there isn't enough time for the ice crystals to form, and a far higher proportion of the eggs survive, says Dr. Seung Lin Tan, who helped pioneer the technique. It was those statistics that persuaded Shah to choose McGill, as well as the price. The drugs and treatments are a lot cheaper this side of the border, says Beverly Harick, associate director of the Infertility Awareness Association of Canada.

One is an Canadian couple are infertile: the cause is divided fairly equally between the sexes. Some technologies focus on the male: intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI) injects a single sperm right into an egg, a treatment used for sperm with low sperm counts. Other advances, such as micropipette-guided needles to collect eggs without the use of surgery, have made the procedure less

to the mother's age: the average pregnancy rate for women aged 35 to 39 is 31 per cent, and for women 40 and over, 19 per cent. For this reason, there is high demand and long wait-lists for the donated eggs of younger women. Since 2004, it has been illegal to pay donors for their eggs or sperm, and consequently there is a shortage of both at the fertility clinics. Patients who can't use their own sperm or eggs are asked to bring their own donors.

In Canada, it is also illegal to pay a surrogate mother to have a child for you. Clinics that offer surrogacy services usually ask couples to supply their own "gestational carrier." At the Regional Fertility Clinic in Calgary, couples can receive donated embryos if they have been unsuccessful with other fertility treatments. The McGill Reproductive Centre has a different solution: It provides a connect to clinics in South America where egg purchasing is legal and will monitor the pregnancy once the couple has returned home.

### HOW MUCH?

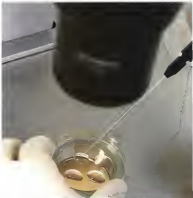
In vitro fertilization: one cycle, including drugs \$6,900 to \$9,000

In vitro fertilization: three cycles, including drugs \$18,000 to \$28,000

In vitro insemination: one cycle \$3,975

Pre-implantation genetic testing for disease \$1,500 to \$3,000 depending on the test

—A.S.



**IN VITRO FERTILIZATION:** Medical advances assist the one in six couples that are infertile.

Centre reversed the marriage pressure: the idea about being a late thirtysomething single woman. "Before I had it done, I didn't feel so worried that I haven't found the right guy and started a family already," she explained from her Manhattan apartment.

Shah chose the Montreal clinic because it is one of the few places in North America that does rapid egg freezing. Normally, when eggs are cooled, the water forms ice crystals that

damage for women. In vitro maturation (IVM) is a new technology that matures the eggs outside of the womb, and can help conception for those who have become infertile because of radiation and chemotherapy. None of these treatments cause chemo, and most are covered by the public purse. Only Ontario pays for IVF, and only when both a woman's fallopian tubes are blocked.

The success rate for IVF varies according



## PREVENTIVE

## The best cure, at executive prices

The comprehensive physical offered by executive wellness clinics is designed to detect developing problems. The examinations are usually long and involved, for example, the Medica assessment, which includes an endometrial ultrasound and fitness appraisal, takes four hours. After the physical exam, clients have access to a range of services designed for people who don't want to wait in line. Many of the clinics offer 24/7 access to doctors. Most promote to expedite your access to any type of specialist doctor you need. A second opinion from a U.S. doctor is another popular option.

These services are usually bundled together as a package, and are available to people who have completed the executive physical exam. Medspa, for instance, a national executive health provider, offers a 24-hour travel lev-

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Or *five to nine?*

IS IT THE *company* YOU KEEP?  
OR THE *people* YOU RAISE?  
*The DIFFERENCE* you make?  
Or the *bills* you pay?

IS IT ABOUT WHERE YOU'VE BEEN?  
OR **WHERE YOU'RE GOING?**  
How you arrive?  
Or what you bring when you do?



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LASIK SURGERY. Lasers are taking over cataract procedures

multi-fused lens many cataract patients are now having replaced requires the removal of any residual refractive error. "The combination of femtosecond and laser refractive surgery has become the state-of-the-art care for many cataract patients," says Avi Wallerstein, director of Lasik MD.

## HOW MUCH?

LASIK procedure  
With initial exam **\$2,400 to \$2,800** per eye  
(at Nongee Eyeliner Laser Eye Center)  
With monovision **\$400 to \$1,700** per eye  
(at LASIK MD)

-D I



## FAMILY PHYSICIANS

## Membership has its privileges

Currently, 10 million Canadians are without a family doctor. The situation has steadily worsened in recent years, and as most states in most Canada.

There have been a number of developments in the private sector helping patients who need a GP. Some clinics have expanded the list services beyond the traditional doctor's office. At the Mon and Baby Depot in White, Ont., a membership fee allows the clinic to provide services that are not covered in the public system. There are free prenatal classes, nutritional counselling, 24-hour access to a physiotherapist, and the promise of a next-day appointment with a doctor when your child is sick.

A pediatrician guarantees an on-site hour appointment for the first year of a baby's life. For parents who have questions between, there are open phone lines each evening with a nurse or doctor. Colicky child? Work shifts offer tips to soothe a crying baby. Insectos? There are sessions on insect stings to calm a child before he or she becomes a local pest. Some doctors discount when their own families need a hand. Clinics who don't want to pay the membership fee can access the walk-in clinic or the on-site on-call or on-go basis.

In Toronto, Susan Health's preventive doctor's service is baby boomers. For an annual fee of \$1,500 upwards, parents receive a personalized health and wellness program, with a nurse/physiotherapist and fitness trainer providing a tailored diet and fitness plan. There is high-quality, responsive primary care on demand, with a 24-hour phone line to reach a doctor. Don't want to wait in line for specialist care in Canada? There's a second option on the latest cancer drugs? Seneca also has a concierge service that will let you up with leading health professionals around the world and walk you through the health care system.

In Quebec, where a reported 125 doctors have opted out of medicine, there is a growing number of clinics providing additional GP services. Medaparc, the concierge health provider to former prime minister Paul Martin, offers a health care concierge service similar to Seneca Health's. Clinique Meda Club du Bas-Saint-Laurent, which reportedly treated current Quebec Premier Jean Charest, provides a full blood test and an on-site surgical clinic. Remember Dr. Jacques Chénail, the plaintiff who challenged the Quebec health laws at the Supreme Court? He's in the process of setting up a medical group, where members will be able to access appointments with doctors for a \$400 yearly membership fee. Patients will also be able to access specialists for about \$200 per consultation. Chénail plans to roll out this new service in Quebec City and Moncton this autumn.

## HOW MUCH?

Mon and Baby Depot  
**\$1,000 membership** for moms and babies up to a year  
Seneca Health  
**\$2,500 to \$10,000** a year  
Chénail Group

**\$400 annual membership**  
**\$100 to \$150** for an appointment with a GP  
**\$100 to \$300** for a specialist appointment  
-A.S.



## SURGICAL

## It's worth the drive to Montreal

Rodland MD is a large private hospital, with five operating rooms, that opened at the beginning of this year. Located in Montreal, it has a number of specialists, including orthopedics, general surgery, ear, nose and throat, colonoscopies and gastroenterology. Since it openly lists both patients and the Quebec government, it has come to represent a new form of "hybrid" health care, proliferating on the Canadian medical landscape.

Most of these "hybrid" clinics operate in Quebec, a province that has encouraged the development of private medicine with recent changes in legislation. (Bill 51, for example, enacted in December 2006, allows patients and the province to split the cost of surgery.) With these changes, Montreal has become a destination for Canadians seeking gender surgery in the private sector. Many travel to the David Orthopédique Clinic in Laval to find hip replacements, the only place in Canada where patients can pay for their complex surgeries. Often go to the Académie Perinatal Clinique de chirurgie de l'adulte Monroville, which specializes in lower and upper extremities, including hands and ankles. In total, Quebec has no surgical clinics, and only to B.C. with 12. As a result, women tend to fly to Vancouver for gender treatment, and Canadians in other parts of the country often go to Montreal. It's medical tourism, homegrown.

## HOW MUCH?

Patients are charged according to the complexity of the operation. Below is a selection of procedures, prices may vary depending on the clinic.  
Ankle replacement **\$17,000 to \$20,000**  
Spinal surgery **\$8,000 to \$16,000**  
Partial knee replacement **\$11,800**  
Hip arthroscopy **\$7,000**  
Shoulder arthroscopy **\$5,000 to \$6,000**  
Gallbladder removal **\$4,000**  
Hernia repair **\$3,000**  
Hysterectomy **\$3,000**  
Cataract **\$550 to \$1,200** (per eye)

-A.S.



## CANCER

## More tools to fight cancer

To put it bluntly, Canada's policy on cancer drugs is a mess, says Dr. Kong Kong, a medical oncologist at Kelowna, B.C., who wrote this year's Cancer Advisory Coalition of Canada report on access to drugs and funding. Canada has an national drug policy for cancer care but instead relies on a mostly antiquated system of secure and non-secure rates. For example, Eribulin, which is an expensive but occasionally effective new drug for fighting advanced colorectal cancer, is covered on a case-by-case basis under the provincial health insurance plan in New Brunswick, but not at all in Ontario or other provinces. Some can't even use it as covered strictly for seniors, although research shows these drugs would be just as effective in younger demographics. Other drugs are available only at cancer hospitals. "It's ridiculous sometimes how new

cancer drugs are vetted or provided," Khan continues. "It has nothing to do with the disease or the potential benefit to the patient."

Another problem is the lack of access to the most up-to-date equipment. Positron emission tomography (PET scans) is widely recognized as the best way to pinpoint where the cancer has spread. However, while the rest of the world has used these machines for the past decade, their usage is restricted in most provinces. Some justify their decision because of the cost. The Ontario government takes a different tack. It says the technology has never been proven, although this is a case of odds with decades of international research and clinical validation, says Dr. Jean Lee, University of Toronto, president of the Canadian Association of Nuclear Medicine. In Ontario, medical trials are ongoing. When they will end has yet to be decided.

Patients who are not satisfied with these explanations and want to better their chances of surviving cancer have a number of options.

SCREENING TOOLS  
PET scans

There are four private PET scanners in Canada—three in Montreal, one in Vancouver, and one in Mississauga, Ont. The Mississauga

location scans the images from PET scans, CTs and MRIs, which is the most advanced form of this technology.

## HOW MUCH?

PET **\$2,350 to \$2,850**

## Virtual colonoscopy

Colonoscopies are the second-leading cause of cancer deaths in Canada. It is also highly curable, if caught early. Tumours begin as polyps, or growths, that usually remain precancerous until they reach about a centimetre in size. Generally, it takes polyps about 10 years to reach this size, so there is plenty of time to remove them before they spread.

Currently, there are two ways of screening for colon cancer. In a colonoscopy, patients receive some form of sedation, such as Valium, and then an optical scope is inserted into the colon to search for growths. This test is highly accurate, if a little uncomfortable. There is a very small chance of bowel perforation. The other test, the fecal occult blood screen, checks whether there is any blood in a patient's stool. Polyps are more likely to bleed once they reach the cancerous stage. On the upside, this cancer screen is convenient, and extremely easy to use. However, since not all growths bleed, it doesn't always

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each the early warning signs.

The virtual colonoscopy, a new screening tool just being introduced in Canada. It can scan images of the whole of the large intestine using a high-definition CT scanner. The more accurate data suggest it is about as accurate as the standard colonoscopy, and it doesn't require the insertion of a lengthy and scope

#### HOW MUCH?

Virtual colonoscopy \$1,400

#### DRUG ACCESS

##### Patient assistance programs

Most drug companies have some form of patient assistance programs, which supplies medications that aren't covered by medicine. Each company sets only those drugs it produces. For example, Amgen has a program for its biotech drugs. For example, Amgen has a program for its biotech drugs. For example, Amgen has a program for its biotech drugs. For example, Amgen has a program for its biotech drugs.

Drug companies will only supply medications that have been prescribed by the patient's oncologist. Some drugs need to be administered through intravenous drip, a few firms have their own infusion clinics for chemotherapy injection. These programs aren't deal with patients directly—a family doctor or oncologist must make the call.

#### Infection clinics

Drugs that aren't available publicly can be bought through private infection clinics. There are a number of these centres in Canada, including the Toronto-based Proton Infusion Clinic and the Felix Creek Surgical Centre in Vancouver. At both locations, on-site oncology nurses or doctors oversee the treatment.

#### HOW MUCH?

Proton Infusion Clinic  
Avenue for colorectal cancer  
\$3,500 to \$4,000 a month  
Zovirax for lymphoma (includes two infusions of \$1000) \$25,000 total cost  
Abraxane for breast cancer \$2,800 every three weeks  
Some insurance policies pay for cancer drugs that are not covered by medicine. Check with your provider.

#### OTHER TREATMENTS

##### Chemofit

Introduced to Canada last fall, this therapy removes a small sample of the cancerous tumour and sends it to an Amgen, N.Y., lab for analysis. The biopsy is used against different chemotherapies to determine which



**VIRTUAL COLONOSCOPY** Advanced diagnostic techniques can improve accuracy while reducing discomfort.

best destroys the patient's cancer cells. At present, only Toronto-based Medline offers Chemofit. Lab results take about a week.

#### HOW MUCH?

Chemofit \$2,500

#### HIFU

High intensity focused ultrasound (HIFU) is the most advanced treatment for prostate cancer. With the patient under anesthesia, a small probe beam focused ultrasound waves at the prostate, burning off the cancerous tissue without damaging the surrounding organs. The operation takes less than five hours—compared to weeks of radiation—and doesn't have the risk of incontinence and impotence as does a radical prostatectomy.

#### HOW MUCH?

HIFU therapy \$21,750

#### Care management

LaunchHealth May 2006, Mediacare Cancer Centre aims to smooth the gaps in care across the public system. Clients receive an initial review of their medical file, and regular appointments with family doctors, not specialists, and nurses who manage treatment and provide support. Secondary care is available 24/7 to answer patient questions, and help them navigate through the maze of public and private options. Several opinions with U.S. oncologists can also be sought through the Toronto-based firm.

#### HOW MUCH?

Fee \$250, prostate cancer presents more a consultation with a family doctor and urologist and an electronic version of their

health record.

For \$230 a month, patients receive regular appointments with a G.I. nurse, physiotherapist, massage therapist, counsellor, and management of their electronic medical records. Patients have the choice of opting out of some of these services.

#### MediCare

This care management can pay among consultations with U.S. oncologists and helps the patient's Canada doctors put these plans in place. MediCare uses facilities such as the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston or the Sloan Kettering in New York for specialist second opinions. "The problem with cancer care in Canada is that our oncologists have adopted their care according to the capacity of resources," says Jeffrey Brock, founder of MediCare. "They are constrained by the scarcity of the most cutting edge drugs." The company also stresses importance of drugs that have been approved by Health Canada but are not yet funded by Medicare.

#### U.S. treatments

A number of centres facilitate cancer care in the United States. M.D. Anderson has a Toronto office that arranges appointments at its Houston hospital. Medline is partnered with Johns Hopkins for treatment in Baltimore. Several executive health providers, such as MediCare, Medway and OneWorld, arrange for second opinions in U.S. hospitals, and follow up outside if necessary. These firms usually offer discounts on the cost of care in the United States.

#### HOW MUCH?

The cost of cancer care in the U.S. can vary widely—from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000.

#### Reimbursement lawyers

Patients who have cancer treatment in the U.S. sometimes receive medical reimbursement from their provincial authority. They are a number of rules to qualify, though some may vary from province to province. Generally, the treatment must be available in Canada, medically required, and supervised by a physician. Some U.S. patients receive the money, this must be paid the month of billing with government boards. However, in recent

years this path has become more popular and there are a number of lawyers willing to take on such cases. (See medical directory, page 17)

—A.S.



#### SPECIALIST

### Need a referral? Not a problem.

Stories about waiting for surgery rarely make the news. It's hard to write an article about an event where nothing happens. However, for the more than 770,000 Canadians who are on a wait list to see a doctor or for treatment, waiting is news. The pain they are suffering can dominate their entire life.

Canadians who don't want to put their lives on hold for a health-related problem have a number of options. In Vancouver, there's the Specialist Referral Clinic. Patients can phone the centre and talk to the receptionist who'll direct the doctor they would like to see. If patients don't know what sort of specialist they need, they can talk with a GP. Appointments with any type of doctor, from oncologists to gynaecologists, ophthalmologists and audiologists to podiatrists can be arranged. A referral from your GP is not necessary. All the doctors are based in British Columbia and most are in Vancouver.

In Toronto, three doctors' offices provide MediCare offers a similar service. It cannot guarantee a doctor's appointment within a set period of time, but it promises to expedite access to Ontario doctors. The medical travel company OneWorld guarantees an appointment within three weeks for most specialists in Alberta, British Columbia and Manitoba,

with plans to expand nationally by the end of the year. Currently, this option is available only through employee insurance plans.

MediCare offers expedited access to specialists across Canada as part of their care management program. Patients consult with a MediCare doctor, the relevant medical information is gathered and summarized and diagnostic tests are arranged if necessary. Then MediCare finds specialists in Canada or the United States if required—who can also be the patient. The total service costs \$180 per hour of MediCare's time.

#### WAIT TIME

Private: Up to three weeks.

Public: Varies widely depending on the province and specialty. For example, neurosurgery has the longest national average wait times from GP referral to specialist (21 weeks for an appointment).



**SEEKING BEST IDEAS** Finding out hidden medical problems.

followed by orthopaedics (16 weeks for an appointment). British Columbia and Ontario have the shortest median wait times for specialist appointments (seven weeks). New Brunswick has the longest wait lists (21 weeks for the first appointment).

#### HOW MUCH?

Specialist Referral Clinic \$500 to \$700 depending on the type of specialist. —A.S.



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- [www.facs.com/linked/face.htm](http://www.facs.com/linked/face.htm)

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1500 Bloor Street West, Suite M110  
Toronto, Ontario, M5S 2G1



#### JOINING THE BRAIN TO TREAT DISEASE

Patients may make the brain stronger in the spirit and people suffering from Alzheimer's. The technique called "transcranial magnetic stimulation" involves a magnetic coil sending electric fields into the brain, stimulating neurons on or off. That enables glioblastoma receptors to stay active longer. The strong electric fields stimulate a process known as long-term potentiation. The technique could also have benefits in treating schizophrenia and stroke.



# MEDICAL SERVICES DIRECTORY

**54** Audiology, **54** Cancer care, **55** Emergency medicine, **55** Eye surgery, **56** Fertility, **57** Financing, **57** Gastroenterology, **57** Genetics, **57** Reimbursement lawyers, **57** Medical travel agents, **57** Primary care, **58** Radiology, **59** Specialist referral, **59** Surgical clinics, **60** Vaccination/travel clinics, **60** Wait-time insurance, **60** Wellness/executive health

COMPILED BY CAMERON AINSWORTH-VINCE, HEG FLOYD, DAFNA IZENBERG, KATE LUNAI, MARTIN PATRIQUIN AND ALEXANDRA SHIMP

Clinics and services listed below offer both private and public services, and may or may not be covered by provincial health care plans.

These listings are not exhaustive and reflect a sampling of what is available in each field. A more comprehensive directory will be posted in a future issue.

## AUDIOLOGY

### NATIONAL SERVICES

**The Hearing Hearing Group**  
18-471 Hazeldean Rd.  
Ottawa K2H 4H8  
613-636-4380  
1-866-675-4327

www.hearinghearing.com  
Other locations in Ontario, N.B. and N.S.  
Services for adults and children include hearing exams, hearing aids and hearing devices.

### ALBERTA

**The Hearing Loss Clinic Inc.**  
251 North Hill Professional Office  
Calgary

**1632 14th Ave. NW**  
Calgary T2N 1M7  
403-269-2990  
Other locations in Calgary: Okotoks and B.C.  
www.hearingless.ca  
Services for adults and children include hearing evaluation, hearing aid fitting and repair, oral rehabilitation and new removal.

### BRITISH COLUMBIA

**Sound Hearing Clinic**  
101-8504 Granville St.  
Vancouver V6P 4Z7  
604-267-6377  
297-1160 Burnside St.  
Vancouver V6E 2S8  
604-607-1488  
1-800-290-2322

www.soundhearingclinic.com  
Services include hearing exams, hearing aid evaluation, hearing aids, hearing devices and auditory processing assessments for children and adults.

### ONTARIO

**ListenAPI Canada**  
Toll-free 310-2244

**www.listenapi.ca**  
ListenAPI Canada has 29 offices across Ontario. Services include hearing assessments, hearing aid fittings, and custom ear plugs.

### SASKATCHEWAN

**Cypress Audiology Centre**  
2nd floor  
350 Chandler St. W.  
E. Lloyd Building  
Swift Current S9H 4G3  
306-798-0826  
1-877-333-0122

www.cypressaudiology.com  
Complete hearing services including hearing evaluation, hearing aids, rehabilitation and counselling.

### QUEBEC

**Le Groupe Forget**  
1-800-673-6835  
www.legrupegroupeforget.com  
Le Groupe Forget has over 30 locations across Quebec. Services include hearing evaluation and maintenance, consultation and hearing screening.

## CANCER CARE PET SCANS

### BRITISH COLUMBIA

**Vancouver PETSCAN Centre**  
3650 Westbrook Mall  
Vancouver V6S 2L2  
604-689-7776  
www.petscan.ca  
PET scans

### ONTARIO

**Cancer Imaging**  
246 Marlborough Blvd. E.  
Mississauga L4Z 1X1  
905-712-9500  
www.cancerimaging.com  
PET scans. Have software that uses PET, CT and MRI images for enhanced diagnostic results.

Partners with Medical Oncology program, matching patients to appropriate chemotherapy.

### QUEBEC

**Centre d'imagerie médicale ProScan**  
2984 boulevard Taschereau

**Greenfield Park JIV 209**  
400-A71 6175  
www.proscan.com  
PET/CT scans, breast cancer, thyroid, bone density, CT scans. MRI scans.

### Nuclear Imaging and PET/CT Centre

2345 rue Guy  
Montreal H3H 2V9  
514-933-8885  
1-888-923-5885  
www.villamarepet.com  
PET scans, CT scans, nuclear imaging.

## CANCER CARE PROSTATE CANCER

### ONTARIO

**Maple Leaf HPU**  
1-877-370-4436  
www.mllh.ca

Provides high intensity focused ultrasound (HIFU) treatment with Ablation technology.

## CANCER CARE CANCER DRUGS

### ONTARIO

**Protein Infusion Clinic**  
502 123 Edward St.  
Toronto M5S 1E2  
416-532-3635  
www.protein.ca

Offers access to cancer drugs that cannot currently be covered by provincial health plans, including treatments for breast and colorectal cancer, lymphoma, rheumatoid arthritis, multiple myeloma, and others.

Patients with Cancer Agency or Chemotherapy program matching patients to appropriate chemotherapy.

### QUEBEC

**MediKinet**  
See Specialized Referral  
Highly patients across drugs and treatments not available in the public system.

## CANCER CARE MAMMOGRAPHY

### QUEBEC

**Ville Marie Medical and Women's Health Centre**  
1000-1535 rue Sherbrooke  
Ottawa  
K1R 1S5  
514-933-2778  
www.villamariemed.com

## CANCER CARE TREATMENT IN THE U.S.

### ONTARIO

**M.D. Anderson Cancer Centre**

1810-438 University Ave.  
Toronto M5G 2K3  
416-599-0450  
1-888-963-1100 (toll-free)  
www.mda.org  
Department of Radiation Oncology  
Canadian site of Houston cancer research and treatment centre. Provides diagnostic and treatment consultations to Canada in person and by video. Facilitates referrals to and care in the Houston clinic.

## CANCER CARE CANCER MANAGEMENT

### ONTARIO

**Medicare Cancer Centres**  
412-4576 Yonge St.  
Toronto M2N 6M4  
416-227-0037  
1-888-622-6666

www.medicarecancer.com  
Consultation and management for cancer patients including 24/7 physician availability, personalized care through FDA with entire medical history (including lab results, dietary medicine, naturopathic and physiotherapy treatments) in person with care team. Patients with Cancer Agency or Chemotherapy program matching patients to appropriate chemotherapy.

www.medicarecancer.com  
Consultation and management for cancer patients including 24/7 physician availability, personalized care through FDA with entire medical history (including lab results, dietary medicine, naturopathic and physiotherapy treatments) in person with care team. Patients with Cancer Agency or Chemotherapy program matching patients to appropriate chemotherapy.

Patients with Cancer Agency or Chemotherapy program matching patients to appropriate chemotherapy.

## CANCER CARE VIRTUAL COLONOSCOPY

### ALBERTA

**Mayfair Diagnostics**  
See Radiology

**Canada Diagnostic Centres**  
See Radiology

### BRITISH COLUMBIA

**Canada Diagnostic Centres**  
See Radiology

**Fibre Creek Surgical Centre**  
See Emergency Medicine

### QUEBEC

**Centre d'imagerie médicale ProScan**  
See Cancer Care PET Scans

**Gastroenterology Centre**  
See Gastroenterology

**Liger et associés**  
See Radiology

## MediCity CT Scan & Nuclear Imaging

See Radiology

**Nuclear Imaging and PET/CT Centre**

See Cancer Care PET Scans

**Radiologie Labelec**  
See Radiology

**Westmount Square Medical Imaging**  
See Radiology

**EMERGENCY MEDICINE**

### BRITISH COLUMBIA

**False Creek Surgical Centre**  
4th floor, 555 W. 8th Ave.  
Vancouver V6Z 1C6  
604-739-9685  
1-800-815-9338  
www.nationalurgery.com

Immediate treatment and diagnosis of acute vascular conditions and diseases by ER doctors.

## EYE SURGERY CENTRES

### NATIONAL SERVICES

**Lock MD**  
1-866-366-2025

www.lockmd.com  
Lock MD has 17 locations across Canada including Halifax, Montreal and Winnipeg. All locations offer LASIK and PRK laser procedures several other refractive procedures including contact and refractive lens exchange.

### ALBERTA

**Global Eye Centre**

450-4935 40th Ave. NW  
Calgary T2A 2N1  
403-266-3032  
1-800-441-1138  
140-11993 111 Ave.  
Edmonton T5G 6G5  
780-452-4111  
1-888-211-8832  
www.global.com

Complete surgical refractive lens exchange, implantable contact lenses (ICL), laser surgery (laser eye).

**Hearst Eye Institute**

210-1311 Bloor St. W.  
Toronto M5S 1B1  
416-929-2020  
1-888-782-8880  
www.heareyeye.com

Complete surgical refractive lens exchange, ICL, laser surgery (laser eye).

**TLC Laser Eye Centres**

380 Wellington St. N.  
London N6A 5B2  
519-438-8820  
1-877-852-2025

404-220-3927  
Contact surgery

**Vision Rejuvenation Victoria**

151-4552 Chaterlain Way  
Victoria V8K 3J3  
250-382-0445  
1-866-946-3846  
www.visionrejuvenation.com

Contact surgery refractive lens exchange, contact lens, laser surgery (ICL).

**EMERGENCY MEDICINE**

### BRITISH COLUMBIA

**1515-233 Kennedy St.**  
Winnipeg R3G 3J5  
204-643-6887  
1-800-362-8711  
www.emergency.com

Contact surgery refractive lens exchange, ICL, laser surgery (laser eye).

**Clearview Laser Centre**

130-1620 Hess Ave.  
Winnipeg R3J 3K1  
204-772-3500  
1-888-555-4048  
www.clearview.ca

Laser surgery (laser eye), ICL.

## NEWYOUNG

**Bone Eye Centre**

908-1800 Hess Ave.  
S. John's A1B 1S1  
209-723-3030  
www.boneeye.com  
Contact surgery refractive lens exchange, implantable contact, laser surgery (laser eye).

**ONTARIO**

**Bowman Eye Institute**

40 Prince Arthur Ave.  
Toronto M5R 1A9  
416-960-3030  
Other locations in Scarborough and Unionville  
www.bowman.com

Refractive lens exchange (ICL), laser surgery (laser eye).

**Hearst Eye Institute**

210-1311 Bloor St. W.  
Toronto M5S 1B1  
416-929-2020  
1-888-782-8880  
www.heareyeye.com

Complete surgical refractive lens exchange, ICL, laser surgery (laser eye).

**TLC Laser Eye Centres**

380 Wellington St. N.  
London N6A 5B2  
519-438-8820  
1-877-852-2025

Contact surgery refractive lens exchange, ICL, laser surgery (laser eye).

**Vision Rejuvenation Victoria**

151-4552 Chaterlain Way  
Victoria V8K 3J3  
250-382-0445  
1-866-946-3846  
www.visionrejuvenation.com

Contact surgery refractive lens exchange, contact lens, laser surgery (ICL).



# HEALTH

514-738-4445  
www.mindplus.ca  
Family medicine, connected  
with private lab and radiology  
clinic through which MR, CT  
and ultrasound can be  
accessed

## Clinique radiologie privée de St-Genève/Profilante

Seaford Medical Building  
580-3950 chemin de la  
Côte-des-Neiges  
Montreal H3H 1V4  
514-432-7575  
Family doctor specializing in  
women's health

## MediClub

6106 Avenue du Rose  
Montreal H3B 2W1  
514-739-5646  
www.mediclub.ca  
Support unique to family  
medicine practice available,  
including lab work (urine,  
blood tests), audiograms,  
cardiac ultrasound, blood  
pressure monitoring, ECG,  
recognition

## ReckonMD

See Surgical Clinic  
Family medicine, physiotherapy  
psychiatry occupational  
therapy and day surgery,  
including orthopedics

## Sentinelles Santé

260-4 rue Taschereau  
Outremont H3T 2Y5  
514-739-1330  
www.sentinelleshealthgroup.ca  
Family medicine clinic offering  
minor surgeries, vaccination,  
health assessment and  
occupational health services

## OPINION

Includes MR and CT scans

## RADIOLOGY

Includes MR and CT scans

## ALBERTA

**Canada Diagnostic Centres**  
1-800-14-51-99  
Calgary T2H 0C3  
594-999-361 St. NE  
Calgary T2A 7G6  
403-263-6666  
1-800-587-4911  
www.canadiadiagnostics.com  
MR, CT, ultrasound, mammography  
bone density X-ray  
fluoroscopy

## CHL Healthcare

411 Marlborough Way NE  
Calgary T2A 7E7  
403-472-6738  
www.onhealthcare.com

Open MR, ultrasound  
mammography  
**Insight Medical Imaging**  
300 Metcalfe Health  
Centre  
756 St. SW  
Edmonton T6H 3W9  
780-444-5052  
www.insightimaging.ca  
MR, CT

**Mayerlin Diagnostics**  
120 Mayerlin Place  
6707 Elbow Dr. SW  
Calgary T2C 0E3  
403-777-4574  
1-866-777-7579  
www.mayerlindiagnosics.com  
MR, CT

## MediClub

6106 Avenue du Rose  
Montreal H3B 2W1  
514-739-5646  
www.mediclub.ca  
Support unique to family  
medicine practice available,  
including lab work (urine,  
blood tests), audiograms,  
cardiac ultrasound, blood  
pressure monitoring, ECG,  
recognition

## ReckonMD

See Surgical Clinic  
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psychiatry occupational  
therapy and day surgery,  
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www.sentinelleshealthgroup.ca  
Family medicine clinic offering  
minor surgeries, vaccination,  
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occupational health services

## OPINION

Includes MR and CT scans

## RADIOLOGY

Includes MR and CT scans

## ALBERTA

**Canada Diagnostic Centres**  
1-800-14-51-99  
Calgary T2H 0C3  
594-999-361 St. NE  
Calgary T2A 7G6  
403-263-6666  
1-800-587-4911  
www.canadiadiagnostics.com  
MR, CT, ultrasound, mammography  
bone density X-ray  
fluoroscopy

## CHL Healthcare

411 Marlborough Way NE  
Calgary T2A 7E7  
403-472-6738  
www.onhealthcare.com

**Proser Valley MRI Clinic**  
5-2151 McCaffrey Rd  
Abbottford V2S 3N8  
403-659-1797  
1-888-705-4674  
www.proservalleyim.com  
MRI

**Imago Eye MRI Clinic**  
101-3200 Rector St.  
Kelowna V1Y 4V5  
250-860-8848  
1-866-966-4848  
www.imagomri.ca  
MRI

## Okanagan Health MRI Clinic

260-3320 Rector St.  
Kelowna V1Y 4V5  
250-860-3130  
1-877-860-3130  
www.okanaganhealth.ca  
MRI

## Specialty MRI Clinics

100-1300 West Hill Ave  
Vancouver V6H 4A5  
604-736-4942  
1-866-736-4942  
www.specialtyim.com  
MRI

## CHL Healthcare

193-3957 Henning Dr.  
Burnaby, B.C. V5C 6N3  
403-272-8757  
1-877-325-9737  
1930 Fort St.  
Victoria V8H 6H4  
250-985-0113  
www.onhealthcare.com  
MR, CT, ultrasound,  
mammography

## NOVA SCOTIA

**Canadian Diagnostic Centres**  
1204-285 Lacombe Dr  
Halifax B3M 4D2  
902-443-9922  
www.noradiology.ca  
MR, bone density scan, ultrasound

## ONTARIO

**Medcon**  
See Wellness Centres /  
Executive Health  
Ultrasound, X-ray  
MRI

## Quebec

**Centre d'Imagerie Médicale  
Rimécon**  
2904 boul. Taschereau  
Greenfield Park J4V 2P9  
450-671-6173  
www.rimécon.com  
MR, CT, ultrasound

## Centre de radiologie West Island

350-175 chemin Bellevue  
Montreal H3T 1G5  
514-387-4725

**Pointe Claire H38 4B3**  
514-497-9940  
600 boul. Harwood  
Vaudreuil-Dorion J7V 6A3  
450-659-1797  
1-888-705-4674  
www.proservalleyim.com  
MRI

**Centre d'Imagerie  
RM Clinique**  
5825 chemin de la  
Côte-des-Neiges  
Montreal H3S 2Z2  
514-739-1464  
MR, mammography, general  
X-ray ultrasound

## IBM Trust Solutions

105-100 Avenue Beaumont  
Trois-Rivières G8Z 4G4  
819-497-2474  
877-793-2474  
www.irmquebec.com  
MR

## IBM Quebec / Clinique Radiologique St-Jacques

515-1900 rue Malibou  
Quebec G1A 5B9  
418-667-6361  
www.irmq.com  
MR, CT, ultrasound  
mammography

## L'Agence d'Imagerie Radiologique

201-181 Sherbrooke St. E.  
Montreal H2L 4L3  
514-523-2121  
www.logradologie.com  
MR, CT, ultrasound

## MediCity CT Scan & Radiology

11th floor, 500 Sherbrooke St. W.  
Montreal H3A 3C6  
514-499-2772  
1-800-225-0220  
www.medi-city.ca  
CT nuclear medicine, ultra-  
sound, X-ray

## MediCity MRI Scan Centre

5811 chemin de la Côte-  
des-Neiges  
Montreal H3S 1Z2  
514-341-3131  
www.medi-city.ca  
MRI

## MediCity

1000-1530 rue Sherbrooke  
ouest  
Montreal H3G 1L5  
514-933-2776  
www.medi-city.com  
MR, CT, mammography,  
bone density scan, ultrasound  
X-ray

## MediCity

1000-1530 rue Sherbrooke  
ouest  
Montreal H3G 1L5  
514-933-2776  
www.medi-city.com  
MR, CT, mammography,  
bone density scan, ultrasound  
X-ray

**www.radiologiequebec.com**  
CT mammography, bone-  
density scan, general X-ray  
ultrasound

**Orion Valley MRI  
Centre**  
15 rue Fessenden  
Montreal H3T 1T4  
514-420-0130  
1-866-225-6771  
www.orionvalleyim.com  
MRI

## Radiologie Leimex

104-1130 Avenue Beaumont  
Wile-Morel H3P 3P5  
514-732-5855  
MR, CT, ultrasound

## Radiologie Mont-Régis

240-100 Place Charles-  
Lemoyne  
Longueuil J4K 2T4  
450-474-0909  
1-877-674-0909  
www.radiologie-  
montregis.com  
MR, CT, ultrasound

## Rosa-Concorde / Rosa-Concorde

300 boul. de la Concorde est  
Laval H7P 2P5  
514-667-7376  
1-866-668-7376  
www.reconcorde.com  
MR

## Toronto Concorde

300 boul. de la Concorde est  
Laval H7P 2P5  
514-667-7376  
1-866-730-7340  
www.specialistim.com  
Nepel access to specialists in  
B.C. for private consultation  
CT

## Westmont Spine Medical Imaging

2701 Westmont Square  
Montreal H3T 2P9  
514-939-9764  
403-268-9006  
1-877-726-7674  
www.augustocentre.com  
Services include dermatology  
and plastic reconstructive  
for back problems, diagnosed  
ultrasound

## Wille Marie Medical and Women's Health Centre

1000-1530 rue Sherbrooke  
ouest  
Montreal H3G 1L5  
514-933-2776  
www.willemarie.com  
MR, CT, mammography,  
bone density scan, ultrasound  
X-ray

## Wille Marie Medical and Women's Health Centre

1000-1530 rue Sherbrooke  
ouest  
Montreal H3G 1L5  
514-933-2776  
www.willemarie.com  
MR, CT, mammography,  
bone density scan, ultrasound  
X-ray

# SPECIALIST REFERRAL

## NATIONAL SERVICES

**Medcon**  
See Wellness Centres /  
Executive Health  
Expedient access to specialists  
in Ontario, Quebec, B.C.,  
Alberta

## MediCity

210-750 boul. Marcel-Laurin  
Saint-Laurent, QC  
H4M 2M4  
514-528-8065  
1-877-373-7072  
www.medi-city.com  
Referrals for treatment  
options in private and public  
hospitals in Canada and the  
U.S. and manages end  
coordinates care. Expedient  
access to specialists across  
Canada and manages second  
opinions in the U.S.

## OneWorld Medical

See Medical Travel Agents  
Offers private consultations  
and rapid access to specialists  
in Alberta and B.C. Provides  
information on which  
specialists have the shortest  
waitlist for surgery  
Arranged second opinions  
in the U.S.

## Specialist Referral Clinic

121-555 West 12th Ave.  
Vancouver V6Z 3K7  
604-737-7444  
1-866-730-7340  
www.specialistim.com  
Nepel access to specialists in  
B.C. for private consultation  
CT

## Westmont Spine Medical Imaging

2701 Westmont Square  
Montreal H3T 2P9  
514-939-9764  
403-268-9006  
1-877-726-7674  
www.augustocentre.com  
Services include dermatology  
and plastic reconstructive  
for back problems, diagnosed  
ultrasound

## Wille Marie Medical and Women's Health Centre

1000-1530 rue Sherbrooke  
ouest  
Montreal H3G 1L5  
514-933-2776  
www.willemarie.com  
MR, CT, mammography,  
bone density scan, ultrasound  
X-ray

## Wille Marie Medical and Women's Health Centre

1000-1530 rue Sherbrooke  
ouest  
Montreal H3G 1L5  
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ON SALE NOW!



GUESTS at last night's *Dommed* and the *Beautiful* event, held by the Society in Toronto

## FRIENDS WITH CASH

Spanish lessons, mojito parties, and salons for people who know people

**BY AMY ROBERT** • On a recent evening at the upscale Toronto restaurant *Dommed*, 10 or so gorgeous young women were gabbling, sipping wine and taking notes on stylish note pads. It looked like a wine tasting, but they were all there for Spanish lessons. Many of them have also gathered for a Cuban scrunch DJ session at the Red Bull Loft, or this screening on the roof of an art gallery, or a literary salon hosted by author such as Russell Smith. It's all courtesy of the Society. It's not every day that two friends start a society, but Lisa Jones, *Arbitrator* (the book), and Ashleigh Dempster (the blonde), both 28, launched theirs as a culture and social club for "interesting and successful people" in the city, explains Dempster. "We were inspired by the English members' clubs of the 19th century, and wanted to create something that would be fun, relevant to our friends and colleagues." The name "the Society" is a nod to that era.

They started the double-tiered people after several years in brutal career fundraising. "I was the first person to have some disposable income," says Blakey. They discovered there was a long gap on the list of sponsors were in need of social editing. "This is a leading city, which can make it hard to choose," says Dempster. "We specialize in filtering down these activities, making them relevant to what our members are looking for. We didn't know they were looking for it. The business model is based on membership revenue and event

cost. It costs \$100 to join for a year, and there's a fee per event. All-in, the parties are usually \$55 per person. Cultural nights like Spanish lessons cost \$25 a class, which includes an instructor, food and wine. The pair say they're also making culture "an affordable luxury."

Norway, the Society has grown to 100 members in Toronto, with plans to launch in urban

**A TYPICAL MEMBER IS YOUNG, PROFESSIONAL, SINGLE, AND OUT FOUR NIGHTS A WEEK**



SOCIAL editing: Dempster (left) and Blakey

centres across North America in 2008. It's a virtual club, with no traditional "clubhouse," though it does have year-gate relationships with venues like the private Speakeasy Club in Toronto. More often, "the city becomes our playground," they explain. Not all the events

are cultural or educational. There are themed parties whose locations are secret and days or even hours beforehand. For the "Dommed and the Beautiful," 200 guests met at Doka 15 in Toronto's Cosmopolitan hotel, where champagne, pickled cherries, gave it its name, and whisked them away to Canada, Aspen Bopapa's lap bar on Queen Street West.

"I heard about the Society from friends and really just wanted to do something different," says Mary Kitchin, an actress and recent finalist on CBC's *What's the Deal?* She went to the "Thunder and Hearted" party and says it was the best party she's ever been to. "It was blown away by the unexpected location and all the little touches, it was like you have friends planned for it." She's also attended Spanish lessons. "I speak Spanish. I've taken Spanish lessons before—being just the girl who it's not a topic. With a cool teacher, it's really fun." Next up: bridge.

Society member David Barclay, 36, a partner with the ad agency Tishman + Lee, likes the parties because they're a lot more fun than going to his default bar every Wednesday. They've also expanded his circle of friends. Social networks are different now from what they used to be, he says. The Society is open to men and women (it's been left off Corporate sponsorship of events in the past because of revenue, and the women costs to members are relatively low. Companies like Red Bull have approached them because the crowd they attract is, well, attractive. Members are generally 25 to 35 years old, 60 per cent are women, and

400,000 have a household income of \$100,000 or more. Ninety per cent are single. "A typical member is a professional, out there nights a week, always the first one to try a new restaurant," says Blakey.

To join, you fill out an online application, but membership is on a referral basis. They haven't declined anyone yet. "The Society is appealing to a certain type of person, so we're drawing that type of crowd," Dempster explains. Sound advice? "Maybe we are," she says, "but not in the way that you have to have a certain social or intellectual level. More in the way that you need to be fun and open-minded to be part of our club." It's like high school, you're invited to the best parties, just as long as you have the right friends. ■

### THE NETHERLANDS: CHOOSING A 'KIDNEY IDOL'

Kidney mind song contests, a new reality show broadcasting this week will see one of three contestants receive a kidney from the Netherlands. The *Kidney Idol* will permit winners to visit on the most deserving recipient, but the ultimate decision will be up to the donor. *Kidney Idol*, 34, a 37-year-old woman with a brain tumour. *Kidney Idol* is a Dutch TV series. "Some people will think it's tasteless, but the reality is even more tasteless. Waiting for an organ"





# 'IT BAFLES THE MIND. IT'S LIKE TRYING TO EXPLAIN MIRABEL—WE BUILT AN AIRPORT, AND IT'S CLOSED.'—FILMMAKER DENYS ARCAND ON QUEBEC'S WHITE ELEPHANTS

## LEWIS HAMILTON FERNANDO ALONSO OUT OF ORDER

The Spanish Formula One racing sensation Fernando Alonso (above) topped the Mexican Grand Prix Sunday but remained under a cloud. His McLaren Mercedes teammates' medals being confiscated by F1 officials this week after leader **Rain Dennis** admitted preventing a young team member from overtaking Alonso. Holding **Lewis Hamilton** (far left) back enabled Alonso to keep his second, but may have cost Hamilton his first Grand Prix victory (he came in second). Dennis's move seemed to back a 2005 rule that forbids team orders. That year, Michael Schumacher won the title thanks to team member aiding a lead, but the resulting outrage prompted FIA to levy a \$100,000 fine against the team. Dennis says he's done nothing wrong: "We had a strategy to win."

## BABA RAM RAHIM SINGH WHAT NOT TO WEAR

It started with newspaper after treatment that inflamed India's Sikh community. **Baba Ram Rahim Singh**, leader of a 20 million member transnational organization called **Dera Sacha Sauda** (DSS), appeared in the May 1st ad, apparently dressed in a revered Sikh spiritual leader. Sikhs branded the ad blasphemous. It sparked the worst rioting in a decade in Punjab and Haryana states, along with demands for governance and the soon-fallen DSS officials belatedly apologized for any offense, but last week tensions were still high, so doubt aggravated after Singh briefly appeared unaware of the uproar. "I were what any followers give me," he said, adding that he doesn't "don't indicate my indifference toward any particular religion. All religions are the same."

AD: DUTTE; SOURCE: PIRELLA GÖTTSCHE

## VIKTOR VUSHCHENKO VIKTOR YANUKOVYCH BACK FROM THE BRINE

Ukraine's President **Viktor Yushchenko** managed to get past his prime minister, **Viktor Yanukovich**, for a soccer game last week end, but only just. The pair had been bitterly feuding. "We have come to a compromise," Yushchenko said reporters in minutes using a snap release for September. Parliament is controlled by Yanukovich's party, which decries Yushchenko beyond ordinary political animosity, and the bolstering by each leader's supporters threatened to involve riotous and law enforcement. Police supporting both sides scuffled in crowds and greater chaos was averted only by the grudging truce. As the soccer game, police were called to silence fans throwing firecrackers. Yushchenko is probably relieved that all there was to offense.

## JULIE ROEHM WHEN ORDINARY PEOPLE COME TO HOWLS

One of **Wolfgang Puck's** guiding principles is that his employees be "hard working, ordinary people," but according to **Forbes** magazine chief **Julie Roehm**, some of the company's top execs are gaudy career climbers. Roehm was fired last year amid charges of improperly accepting gifts from an ad agency (she denies that were "small, White Castle food bags"). This week, she **Reform**, joining CEO **Lawrence** a number of executives in relations with one **Julius Jacobus**, whose company buys model **Wolfgang Puck** items. Roehm says Scott received free trips and discounts on services and a pink diamond ring for his wife. The father claims she was fired more for pushing edgier advertising, including an ad in which a husband and wife discuss underwear.

## DENYS ARCAND A WORK OF MONUMENTAL FOUL

Quebec's foremost filmmaker has found a use for Montreal's Olympic Stadium. The protégé of **Denys Arcand's** new movie, **Classe des années** (*Days of Darkness*), which closed the Cannes Film Festival, is a biography of the old Canadian province. His offices are on an upper stadium deck. As Arcand's who use the movie as a backdrop for the film's plot with current events—the swelling of the basin owing to lack of oxygen. **Classe** dragged down and hauled the 1976-1977 film, hauled in a sleeping bag, to a medical research station. "I am indebted to those people for life," said **Denis**, who came through the ordeal with nothing but a bit of frostbite. "I can't believe the love and concern they showed to rescue me."

## McKAGAN MCGRATH COOPERATE WITH THEIR SAVE A LIFE

Last week, a Canadian climber helped restore the reputation of **Mt. Everest** expedition, after recent instances of some leaving their fellow climbers to die. **Clare** was very down from the peak, **Meagan McGrath**, 25, an aerospace engineer with the Canadian Forces, came upon **Nepal's** **Clare** **Meagan McGrath**, 25, who had been abandoned by her expedition after the fall with current events—the swelling of the basin owing to lack of oxygen. **Classe** dragged down and hauled the 1976-1977 film, hauled in a sleeping bag, to a medical research station. "I am indebted to those people for life," said **Denis**, who came through the ordeal with nothing but a bit of frostbite. "I can't believe the love and concern they showed to rescue me."

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# THE BACK PAGES

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# Is that my baby on the screen?

**The Canadian author of 'Knocked Up' on why she's suing Judd Apatow and Universal over Apatow's new movie BY REBECCA ECKLER**

**film**

Did the 40-Year-Old Virgin screw me? On and off, for almost a year now, this is the question I've been asking about Judd Apatow, the co-writer and director of *The 40-Year-Old Virgin*. Apatow has had me craving still drinks over the last year and, occasionally, wanting to crawl into a fetal position, which is ironic, considering his right angle to Hollywood, namely my lawsuit against Universal and Apatow, all started because of a martini glass and a baby soother.

In March 2005, my book, *Knocked Up: Confessions of a Hip Mother-to-Be*, was released in the United States; one year after it was published in Canada. It was reviewed in the *Los Angeles Times*, and mentioned in numerous American publications, including the *New York Daily News*, the *Chicago Tribune*, the *Washington Post* and the *New York Times*. Producers, in essence in Hollywood as house-

wives, strong characters and rehab, came out of the woodwork, asking about the possibility of turning the book into a screenplay or television series. I could have accepted any one of a number of bids from Canadian production companies who wanted to option my book for a few thousand dollars. But I was looking out for the Big American Office.

One Los Angeles producer was reasonably persistent. He was a real producer, with actual projects under his belt. Over the past two years, I've talked to him numerous times about how to go about selling my baby—the book. Last summer he called and told me, "There's a movie coming out called *Knocked Up*." I know, I told him. I had seen mention of it in *Us Weekly*.

"What did the cover of your book look like again?" He asked. "It was a martini glass with a baby soother around the stem," I told him. "You are not going to believe this. I just saw the front page of the screenplay. You are not

going to believe what the picture is," he said. "What?" I asked, feeling my heart sink.

"It's a martini glass with a soother around the stem. I'll fax it over."

And he did. "What do I do?" I asked him when I got the fax.

"Get a lawyer," he said.

I felt sick and dizzy. Not only did the cover of the screenplay feature a martini glass with a soother around the stem, like the cover of the American edition of my book, the words "Knocked" and "Up" were in two different colours, the same as my book cover.

Could Apatow, the writer and director of the movie *Knocked Up*, coming out this week, possibly have read and stolen my book? Could he have read the review in the *Los Angeles Times* and thought, "Hey, that's a great idea for a movie?" Could one of the many people on which I've inquired about my book given me a hint? Or was I being paranoid?

Thoughts of the two authors who sued Dan Brown, and Random House, for copyright infringement were at the forefront of my mind. Not only did they lose appeal after appeal, they lost millions and millions of dollars in their quest to prove that *Dean* in *The Da Vinci Code* had been stolen from them. I did not want to be thought of as copy.

Two days after receiving that fax—a complete rip-off of my American cover—I googled Judd Apatow for hours, like an obsessed girl with a crush. During my search, I found a candid, very sexy exchange, printed in *Harper's Magazine* in 2002, in which Mark Russell, a creator of *That '70s Show*, accuses Apatow of stealing sketch ideas from him. "What?" I thought. "Apatow has been accused of stealing before?" I also found out Apatow's wife was pregnant around the time my book came out. Perhaps she read my book and told him about it.

Over the next few weeks, lying in bed, I'd compose letters in my head to the stars of the movie. "Dear Katherine Heigl, I love Gwyn-







## Laughing all the way to the bank

**'Ocean's Thirteen' lights up the casino and delivers '70s style sans substance**

**BY BRIAN D. JOHNSON**—Steven Seidberg, 66, was 26 old the day the glee when he came to Cannes in 1989 with his first fiancée, art, for and redemptive. This low-budget article was the *Prince d'Or* and triggered a new movement of wide filmmaking. Reclaiming the spirit of the New Wave, it proved that an unknown director could throw four brilliant actors into a room with a great script and win a winning combination. Last week, playing for his bigger friends, Seidberg hit back in Cannes, launching *Don't Tell Them* with an arsenal of Hollywood stars—and proving, just, with a mad-once script, you can turn George Clooney, Brad Pitt and Matt Damon into a lush Vegas casino on a huge sound stage, and by the way.

The film took now gets to hang out with the cool kids, but as a child of the New Wave, Southey's proud to hit roots, and juggle commercial projects with risky experiments such as *The Good German*. And even with *Queen*, he can't help throwing some wild curves into the formula. With a juicy color scheme, right angles, and a lot of fun poony games, this 21st-century sleazebook may look like movie from the late '60s or early '70s. And for North American filmmakers climbing the red staircase in Cannes—from the Coen brothers to *Dogma*, *Amélie*—that even represents a watershed. Even those too young to live through it can see that it was a new moment, with landmarks like *The Bad News Bears*, *Malcolm X* and *Moon* in the mainstream, and the avant-garde was briefly one and the same.

New Hollywood confections and "serious" films are worlds apart, with almost no middle ground. When I questioned Soderbergh about this in Cannes, he was a tad defensive: "We're

only partly in control of that. You can make a film that's going to bridge that gap. But it's hard to review, and people don't show up, people aren't going to see very many of them. So it's not as straightforward as you might think, making a movie that's commercial and has some substance to it."

Of course, an intractable lack of substance is the entire appeal of the Ovens's franchise. Ovens's *Titanium* brings the boys back to Vegas, where they target a new casino called the Bank, the pride and joy of a suburban named Willie Bank (*Al Pacino*). Their motive is revenge—Bank has double-crossed their old mentor (Robert Gould). So they set out to bankrupt his casino on opening day with expert scores, such as doctored dice, *Song* slot machines—and using the drill that carved the Channel co-sensational earthquake that will cripple the security system's artificial intelligence.

With so much plot whizzing by, and so many cast members, there's little time for relationships, or close-ups. Páramo never really sinks his teeth into the scenery. The best scenes feel makeshift—like a speechless rage between a cougar cougar (Ellen Barkin) and a Don Juan who cons her with an aphrodisiac (Damon). But the real truth being hit is this sequel is Hollywood. It's as if Fosterberg, Clooney and their *Brat Pack* are aware

themselves at the expense of the studio and the audience, which are both happy to be taken for a ride. *Cyran's Thirteen* is like a demented, high-tech casino where everyone goes home a winner. And where else can you see such a nice pageant of Hollywood party boys? It's like a live-action issue of *Playboy*.

In Cannes, however, the last portraits of the New Wave surfaced in some films that pushed beyond style. With *No Country for Old Men*, the Coen brothers have finally grown up. Abandoning their habit of flippantly far to one side, they've made a contemporary western that sets out as a pulp thriller, then descends into an epic meditation on vengeance in America. With *Days of Darkness*, Denis Arcand faces a wrenching story of Quebec nationalism, weaving the motif of bloody concrete that he first introduced in 1975's *Royal Palm*. With *Peripetia*, a tragedy of purist intentions, Jean-Louis Esposito's *Le Dernier Metre* marks a new beginning for the filmmaker, the 1979 revolution and war with Iran. And at Montreal, *1 World and 2 Days*, a harrowing tale of Lebanese shoreroos, does for Les Cinéastes du Réalisme what *The Love of Others* did for Student East Germany—taking audiences far, far away from the handsets of world of Oscar's Territory, and the French Riviera. ■

**ON THE WEB:** For more Brian D. Johnson visit his blog at [www.uscissas.ca/brdjohnson](http://www.uscissas.ca/brdjohnson).



**WE'RE STALKING : RAULA ABDUL**  
No doubt the judge of American Idol is glad this season is over, ending as it did with the singer's face becoming a focus of attention. Last week her publicist announced that Abdul had broken her nose after the hit trying to avoid stepping on her childhoods, Tully. But the New York Post alleged Abdul had actually thrown something at a member during "a fit," causing a piece of flying glass to break her on the nose. Abdul dismissed the allegation.



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**LICENCE TO BOOST DATA:** When the CBDC declared 'CB-NY' wasn't Material, Alliance Atlantic publicly disagreed and changed nothing.

## It's so unhistorical it's hysterical

**How do 'CSI' and a bunch of John Wayne westerns qualify as history on History TV?**

**BY ADAM J. GREENBERG** When people talk about "historical" content on television, they mean documentaries with old music, or trips to archaeological sites. Who would have thought that the term "historical" would apply to a contemporary series about forensic investigation? The series is *CSE NY*, and History TV, Canada's history-oriented cable channel, is merely violating its programming mission by showing it. And no one can stop this—certainly not Canada's media regulators.

Earlier this year, *Managers' Partners* (now co-director of the Wharfedale Guild of Canteens), named that History TV's previous top programmer was somewhat unbalanced. In February, she complained to the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission, which complained to Alliance Advertisers' Communications, owner of History TV (and, as it was, certainly a complete ass). A lawyer, owner of CSE. Without raising a fuss, Alliance Advertisers informed the CRTC that CSE TV's quality is historical because it "often viewers a critically acclaimed book or informative program." In post 8011 New York City "Apparatus" a similar explanation applies to another History TV channel, *MG* (it's about my lawyer, it must be about others' lawyers).

History TV also claims to fail in its *Doc*es mission by showing historical movies. And as late this month, its big event will be a celebration of the movies of John Wayne (an homage to the 100th anniversary of his birth). John Wayne's westerns and war movies aren't exactly accurate representations of history, unless you think he single-handedly won the Second World War and made the West safe for homesteaders. Other upcoming movies on History include *Conquering Theory*, and

ing, *Mr. Cartoon* is a personal celebration, and *The American President*, which is not about an actual American president. History does have some semi-historical shows, like the gratifyingly accurate *Assassins in the White House*, but it's much easier likely to try and pass off HBO's *Reparations* *Cartoonville* as historical (because it takes place in the 1930s). "It's not just Gail Klee programming," says History books. Farber says "If you look at their schedule, they have very little historical programming at any time, from any country."

Does the cultural improve as ratings by asking less-than-historical programming? The answer is a definite yes, according to Mel Dillon of Playboy magazine. Dillon came into the ratings figures and found that CSI NY ratings "represent four of history's top 10 highest rated programs." They are particularly popular with the 18-34 demographic. AMC is trying so hard to court "History" they're the only channel that boasts its ratings through adopting a more loose definition of its main drive. The Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN) broadcast is any movie with an Aboriginal or part-Aboriginal cast. This has led to their showing such routine cultural scenes as Five Wives and Police Academy.

When specialty channels violate the terms under which they were licensed, the regulators are supposed to be able to sue in court.

for it. The significant thing about the CRTC's move is not the CRTC's complaint, but the fact that Alliance *after the complaint* has to have so few retorts. When the CRTC declared that CSE-WY wasn't historical, History's parent company politely disagreed and charged nothing. Two months later, the CRTC merely wrote another, less strongly worded letter. Meanwhile, Alliance Adriatic's representative Nicole Melnic told Maclean's bluntly that "we do think CSE-WY fits on the channel and we are dealing with the CRTC on it."

While they deal with the CKTC, Atlanta Atlanta is moving forward with its planned multi-million-dollar merger with ConWest, and they don't seem worried that the CKTC will threaten them. "What's hindering with all of this is a process," *Pacific says*. "What happens when a specialty channel doesn't comply with its terms of license? There's no plan B. And if I don't follow up, does that mean that this just goes away? You can't have rules and no enforcement mechanism."

But even if the CRTC permits with its sharply worded terms, Alliance Atlantis has an incentive to keep stalling. Not only are CSE TV's new and old movies popular with viewers, but they are, in *Palmer's* words, " dirt cheap" for a network to obtain. That's reason enough to provide a very loose definition of historical programming. Coming up in the John Wayne (airmail) *The Green Berets*, a Vietnam war drama so accurate it ends with the war ending in the east. ■

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## Courting trouble with misblurbs

**Misquote a critic to sell more tickets or books, and you could face jail time in Britain**

**BY KATE LUNAN** • London theatre producers are anxious for awards for spicing up their trade, and more than one has extracted quotes from a critic's lukewarm review to tempt the public to their shows. Ian Shuttleworth, a theatre critic for the *Financial Times* in London, pointed to a recent review by critic Kieren Quirk for a London musical: "It is both miserable and true to say that *St. George and the Dragon* drags on," it read. "And to add behold, 'Irresistible' it's been an issue for a while. But it only really became a matter for serious rousing in the last few years."

Soon producers will take them to court, says Quirk. "Reviews could face legal action—maybe even jail time—under a new European Union directive coming into force in Britain by April 2008. The *Unfair Commercial Practices Directive* is aimed at preventing consumers from 'abuse' practices in advertising, said Simon Gorkham, a lawyer at Britain's law firm Boodle Hatfield. While the directive isn't specifically designed to keep theatre producers in line, "it is interfering from an anti-trust perspective," Gorkham said, "because it will impact those who misquote critics to sell tickets."

"To be deemed unfair, an advertisement must fall short of a reasonable standard of care, and it must also be shown to have harmed consumer behaviour to some way. Severe offences could lead the guilty party behind bars—but we won't know what a serious breach is until there's a test case brought before the courts," Gorkham said.

In the meantime, who comes between London's critics and producers is a "gentleman's agreement," said Alastair Seach, a vice editor at London weekly *The Stage*, explaining that

producers will sometimes call up critics and ask permission to use an edited version of a quote in publicity material. "Most producers are very honest, but some push us like a hot pin," Seach said.

He gave the example of another London theatre critic who wrote of *Satanstoe Night* from *The Times*: "It's an all-out rumpus you want, this only belatedly delivers," a line that was whittled down to "an all-out rumpus" in ads for the show.

The concern isn't unique to London. Perhaps the most notorious example comes from New York City, where producer David Mirnick thrashed through the phone book until he found seven people with the same names as prominent theatre critics, and convinced them to give nice reviews of his planned 1961 show *Sleeping with the Enemy*.

Such riggle of hand is not unique to the arts, either—according to Canadian author and critic George Murray, when it comes to promoting books, "it seems to be industry standard to play a little fast and loose with the newspaper blurb." Murray has had at least one of his own reviews digged and doctored, without added ellipses to show the text had been changed, and used to advertise a novel he critiqued. "The review died and gone at the end of the day. Pull quotes live forever," he said.

When Nathan Windack, now review editor at *Q&A* magazine, lamented writing book reviews, he was criticised for purposely putting them in a way that nothing could be extracted as a pull quote. "You just sort of avoid an entirely positive sentence," said Windack. "You can get really petty about it."

And who could forget the bizarre case of David Manning, a mouse critic story admitted to twisting back in 2001? It was Manning who dubbed *Black in Lodge* "This year's hottest new star" in publicity material for the film. A Knight's Tale, and Manning who almost actually produced Rob Schneider's *The Animal*. "Another winner!" Seach later agreed to pay a sentimental US\$1.5 million (50 each to fans who saw the film in the U.S.).

Back in London, Shuttleworth said critics feel that being taken out of context is a "low-level annoyance, but we do get annoyed with the sense that it's the constant bare of our lives." The Critics' Circle, an association that represents British critics, only gets about five complaints from individual critics on the matter each year, said Mike Siers, honorary secretary of the drama section. "In the catalogue of human depravity, this doesn't rank very high," he acknowledged.

So will the *Unfair Commercial Practices Directive* have any effect on the city's media message producers? "My feeling is that it will lead to several examples of mischief," Shuttleworth said, "although it will be just like the help restoring the road that is."



### PERFORMANCE OF THE WEEK — POTATO FARMING

Every day actor David Barkov (above) is charged as a potato farmer working land near the German village of Joachimsthal. *Potatoes!* Theatre is the brainchild of U.S. director David Levine, who makes audiences to come and see, watching Barkov working a field. "In character" as a farmer, dressed in 1930s dressed in period clothes and using period methods, the performance has been described as a hybrid of performance art and food production.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY LANA LINDENBERG



AN FCC REPORT THIS APRIL ON TV VIOLENCE CONCLUDED, "THE V-CHIP IS OF LIMITED EFFECTIVENESS IN PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM VIOLENT CONTENT."

## Cashing in his V-chips—big time

**Tim Collings is rich because of an innovation that lots of people have, but few actually use**

**BY BEN MARGOLIS** • Tim Collings's invention is the V-chip—the device that was going to change the world—began as an engineer's response to an act of unspeakable violence. As far as that happened there, including a pending multi-million-dollar corporate suit, yet to transfer ownership of his V-chip patent—well, *www.saysCollings*, he was just trying to make an unattended connection. "Something like this, it's fair to say, has taken on a life of its own." Not bad, considering it appears to be a technology few people take advantage of.

The current owner of the chip's creation was the daughter in December 1998 of a female engineering student at Ecole Polytechnique in Montreal. Collings was working in the field of engineering science at Simon Fraser University, licensing some technology on the CBC. Horrified, he'd later learn about the shooter's act of violent video and conclude there is a link between television violence and that of the real world. He turned to technology, creating a broadcast filter he called a "video content." Your TV has a V-chip, as it became known, if you bought this company. Odds are you haven't activated it, if you have, it adds the ratings embedded in broadcast and video shows down that recent year content level for violence, sexuality and other language.

"It was never intended to be a patent," says Collings, who lives in Surrey, B.C., that, stuff happens. The chip—thanks to the antitrust action against of Bill Clinton as (child) friends—was suddenly seen as the antidote to family violence, more pregnancy kidnapping use. Instead, rather like the Segway, human nature isn't, because a new piece of technology that couldn't possibly live up to its billing. Collings' con-

cerns the political use of the chip made him "a little uncomfortable," he adds. He was off to the White House and the bill, show on TV didn't (and still doesn't) have cable. He was expected to be an expert on TV violence, and he became one.

Still, Collings's patent has made Collings a wealthy man. Every chip carries a royalty of about \$100, and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has required V-chips in virtually every TV sold in the U.S. (since 1999). In Canada, compliance is voluntary, although most new content chips. Collings has also created several generation programs: V-chip software, which is now mandatory in all digital TVs and raises some of the U.S.—a matter yet to explore.

V-chip royalties are paid to TV-Watch International, a Toronto-based technology consulting company chairman, and a college professor, as a Simon Fraser University, his former employer. The days are a major money-maker, so much so that Tim-Vision is set to be sold for a \$100 million near-term with LAN-Lan, an Ottawa-based special in technology patent licensing.

While Collings is in the chips, it's not clear his invention is improved on the TV landscape. An FCC report this April on TV violence concluded, "the V-chip had limited effectiveness

in protecting children from violent content on content." It also found broadcasters for clearing the chip by failing ratings, and notes that in 1998 out of U.S. households use the chips, though other estimates claim about a third of homes with children filter programming.

Collings says the U.S. surveys are outdated and don't reflect increased awareness about the chip. He concedes, however, Canadian usage is probably lower. "I don't want to say we're apathetic," he says, "but it certainly doesn't get the same play in Canada."

Collings' own television viewing includes the NHL playoffs, as well as such high lights as The Sopranos and Madeline in the Middle series. He says the chips on his own sets, but he also makes a point of watching shows with his children when possible. His eldest daughter is now 12, however, and the protective bubble is harder to maintain. "It's not like there's a while for that age, so you don't know about your guys," he says.

Bad language, violence and nudity have only increased in the years since the V-chip standardization, he says. Violence has been, grow over more dramatic. He was in the U.S. this April during an anti-campus racism at the murder of 31 people at Virginia Tech by a lone gunman. The tragedy helped fuel the nation, but Collings couldn't help but feel the world had grown harder, and that darkness was more easily visible. It's as if they'd come to expect such things, he says. As if they'd seen this movie before. ■



### STOP THE PRESSES—SENIORS WITH GOLF CLUBS

In a report about the Scottish elections, an editing error led to an wrongly suggesting that John Selinger of the Scottish Senior Citizens' Unity Party had been accused of allegedly causing a breach of the peace by running a car in a political street with a golf club. (The Scottish elections also saw new Scottish voting procedures, May 17.) We apologize to Mr. Selinger for any embarrassment or distress caused. —The Guardian, May 17



LOYAL FOLLOWERS: People dress their holidays around the arrival of whites on Peter Janssen's Ontario farm, some driving from Quebec

## The new hunt for the great white

**Only one Canadian farmer is crazy enough to grow the gourmet's asparagus on a large scale**

**BY SARINA CRAPHAN** • There is asparagus and there is white asparagus. While most of us are just happy to find a far bundle of local greens at this time of year, not as often as you can find the subtle, more refined taste of the fat white spears that are grown in taster darkness. For many years, the best stuff was down in at great expense from Europe—Holland, Belgium, the Loire Valley in France—which made certain amount of home white asparagus production seems so quaint and old world and a home-dinner cottage.

Harvesting white is in painstaking in an archaeological dig: each spear grows deep underground and must be carefully uncovered by hand and cut with an oblique knife, taking care not to disturb the tender shoots that sit at the base of the spear.

Asparagus farmers work seven days a week, using many a day when it's hot, since asparagus grows better than most needs. It will grow an inch in a couple of hours if the conditions are just right. If you cut a spear and it breaks ground, it turns purple, then green and consequently worthless. It will fetch only a third of the price. In every European country, the black marking work was left to children and teenagers in recent years, countries like Germany have depended on migrant workers from countries like Poland.

Small wonder, then, that most Canadian farmers have found other ways to make a living. Charles Ford, an asparagus farmer in Cowichan Bay, B.C., tried growing white for a few seasons but gave up two years ago. Even though the crop was a labour (much of it going to Vancouver restaurants), the operation was just too expensive to make it worth his while. "When asked if the effort of cheaper Peruvian workers factored in his decision, he decided," Ford said, "he had."

It's a home because the product was so bad. "Many Canadian fans of the South American spear soon went," White asparagus should have a distinct bitterness," opines chef Lori Loefer, who with his boss Peter Grandy conducted an asparagus tasting last year in Quebec restaurant in Toronto. "White chow slant—some people like milk, but me, I prefer a good quality dark." Loefer also prefers Canadian white to the French (considered by many to be the epitome of asparagus) they have just the right balance of sweet and bitter. Using the Canadian stuff is good public relations, with local and seasonal being the two buzzwords in foodie days, chefs are scrambling to meet more homegrown ingredients. The price doesn't hurt, either: it's about half the price of the European.

Nevertheless, only one Canadian farmer is crazy enough to grow white asparagus on a large scale. Actually, Peter Janssen is a transplanted Dutch headhunter, who came to Canada more than 10 years ago. Janssen grows his crop not far from the sandy shores of Port Dover on Lake Erie, but off the road and equipment will come from Europe. "We experimented with Ontario varieties," says his wife, Leona. "But they were too thin-skinned, they shrank and bent."

Being the country's only producer of a white product has its advantages. Over 14

years and many experiments, Janssen has developed an intensely loyal following. People treat their holidays around his spears, driving from as far away as Quebec to lunch up on the stuff at the farm gate. Others actually struggle to track to Europe—one Toronto foodie is in his relatives just to prove that the Canadian stuff measured up to the fatherland's. Many of the country's best chefs, from Toronto's David Lee to Vancouver's Gil Gaudin, D.C., have composed spring menus to feature his spears.

Earlier this month, the chefs were distributed to discover their admiration was no longer carrying Janssen's asparagus. "I had a great start," said Loefer, who was forced to resort to the price of Belgium. Food producers immediately began speculating that Peter's chief benefit had priced Janssen out of the market. Not so, says Leona, although it was a factor in their decision to stop growing the lesser stuff this year. "I don't want something about the white," she explains. "The people who are not to be bothered with it." The Janssens are still harvesting 200 kg of white on a good day, and selling a bundle at the farm gate. But this year, the boy's share of the crop will go to Loefer's across the country—possibly one of the only cases of consumer buying based on a quality product from the professionals. The orders are smaller, and there's less political involvement, says Loefer. So ran out and get a bundle before the chefs find out. ■

### TODAY'S SPECIAL ... DONALD TRUMP STEAKS

These premium meats come with a half-thighed steak and an investment from the Donald. "When I come to steak, I've just made the steak." Only US\$200 for four steaks and 12 hamburger patties. Or for US\$1,000, U.S. citizenship can be. If awarded steaks and 12 hamburger patties, delivered packed in dry ice. The hype has prompted one food blogger to mock Trump's bombastic hypebole. "Not just dead animals, but the best life has to offer."



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANDREW TAYLOR  
PHOTOGRAPH BY JEFF HANSEN



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**SARAH JESSICA PARKER**  
 "The City has been refusing the request to host the 10th anniversary with happy people, she says, leaving her black at her wedding ceremony. "I wish I'd worn white." She says promptly for to create a line of modesty going to be inappropriate really showing a way that I don't feel comfortable with."

- Researchers at Carnegie Mellon University have created *Heartlander*, an inch-long robot without legs and suction cup feet that is designed to be inserted through a small incision and controlled by a doctor using a joystick—right up until it bursts the artery through the patient's stomach and usefully delivers everyone in the room, possibly while triggering a memorable cacophony.
- The bad news: the U.S. military has com-

Truly, we are self-condemned by our behavior, our integrity and our countless past acts of a real life Commander Data capable of analyzing the Lieutenant! It is all of us. And so the death march of robots must continue! The big hit of the recent RoboBusiness Conference in Boston was the unveiling of the Battlefield Extraction Assault Robot, or BEAR, from Vicco Robotics. This robot has a balancing system that allows it to crawl and even jump a battlefield at up to 35 km/hr to retrieve a wounded soldier and bring him to medical, before going back to fetch the four other soldiers it can encounter.

**ON THE WEB:** For Scott Feisthuk's take on the news of the day, visit his blog [www.ancieana.ca/feisthuk](http://www.ancieana.ca/feisthuk).



## RACHELLE JEANNIE MARIE LÉOST

1969-2007

She lived to sing, and dance, and help her sons learn to play music. 'She didn't know what quiet was.'

Rachelle Jeannie Marie Léost was born in Winnipeg, on Feb. 2, 1969, to Rose, an office cleaner at Grant West Ltd., and Don Léost, a janitor at the St. Boniface School Division. Both Rose and Don were born to his north of St. Laurent, an old Métis community on the southern shore of Lake Manitoba where they lived. After six of their eight children—seven girls and one boy—were born, they tried to make it work and moved into the city. Rachelle was the youngest, and whether she was just naturally chatty or whether, like her sister Gaele Lamy says, she had to fight to hold her own, Rachelle grew up outgrowing wall-length "She was the boss," her sister Devine Carriere says. "In all her peppy pictures, she has her hands on her hips." But, says her sister Devine McCaughan, "She was so sweet, she had us all wrapped around her pinky."

Rose and Don did a lot of square dancing in their young years and Rachelle grew up loving music. "She was always singing and dancing," Devine says. Her lifelong inclination was Perreyé because when she was just a toddler, she loved listening to the Beatles sing for her, but couldn't pronounce the word properly. She also loved animals. "She would bring home crickets," her mother says, "and she was allowed to keep them, but not all of them." Rachelle had a slew of friends and cousins for company too. Even with her team, Devine says, Rachelle stayed close to girls she had met in kindergarten. "She tried to keep in touch with everybody."

At 12, when Rachelle graduated from St. John's High School, she met a tall, hard-working boy from St. Laurent, Perry Gaudy. Perry lived with his parents on a farm, but when Rachelle and he became a couple, he bought his own place, naming her coffee and growing soil. Rachelle got a job at Cosco on St. James Street in Winnipeg and drove back and forth to work, much to her parents' dismay, because they moved in to town. She and Perry had three boys, Dylan, Zachary and Ryan, and she continued to work at Cosco, unpacking clothes, after each pregnancy. At the farm, she collected horses and cats and dogs, her sister Elise-Gervais says, setting their broken bones and stitching up their wounds

herself. In her kitchen, she had an old jukebox, which blared out rock or country tunes while the kids and their friends and soup-competitors sat in and out. Says Gaudy, "She didn't know what quiet was." When their brother, Lloyd, died in a car accident at age 50 in November 1996, Rachelle assumed his family tradition, the Aug. 3 pig roast, which changed venue from his home to the Ance Man, aether firm in St. Laurent. She ended up, every August, long weekend sure, with 500 people in her yard, sleeping in tents and campers. For such occasions the sisters had a theme song, the Younger hit *We're Here for a Good Time (Not a Long Time)*.

Rachelle also devised her own way to teaching Mitti jigging, a rotating and complicated step dance, to youngsters and adults at St. Laurent area schools. Her oldest son Dylan, now 15, learned to play a fiddle that had belonged to his grandfather, and soon he and his brothers, Zachary, now 12, and Ryan, 10, had formed a group called the Gaudy Boys. "They played the Festival du Voyageur in St. Boniface and opened for Charlie Major," Devine says proudly. Rachelle supported them all the way, finding them a music teacher and driving them to gigs. Devine says she chose an early morning shift at Cosco so she could spend the afternoons and evenings with her boys. At home, Rachelle threw a party to celebrate the release of their first CD, even though the family was already planning a get-together in early May for Rose and Don's 50th anniversary. Relatives wondered why

she didn't delay her event until later in the month.

On Saturday, May 12, the weekend after her parents' party, Rachelle left home for a 5 a.m. shift at Cosco. She was driving south on Arlington Street in her 1995 Pontiac Transport van. A 1994 Plymouth Voyager van that had been stolen four days earlier was travelling east on Cathedral Avenue. At 4:40 a.m., it ran a stop sign at the intersection of Arlington and missed Rachelle's vehicle broadside, sending it flipping through the air. She died at the scene. A 10-year-old man, who is still in hospital, faces numerous charges including impaired driving causing death. Rachelle Léost was 36.

BY BARBARA RICHMOND



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